

This Month in History

from the Vienna Newsletter archives

JANUARY 1994 – The Town Council will hold a public hearing at its January 24 meeting on the possible acquisition by the Town of the Lowe's property at 143 Maple Ave., E. Some uses that have been mentioned for the property are a park, parking facility, and possible sale or lease of the property for retail shops. Lowe's current asking price is substantially above what similar property is bringing, and the Town is seeking an appraisal of the site to be discussed at the public hearing.

JANUARY 1984 – The W&OD Trail is undergoing some new development. The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA) has purchased an easement to connect the trail to a 90-acre tract near Vienna that it plans to develop as an arboretum.

JANUARY 1974 – In response to inquiries about widening several Vienna streets, Town Manager C. Clay Harrell said that the Town has no plans whatsoever for the widening of any streets in the south quadrants of Town. Planners have indicated it may be necessary to widen several streets to handle increased traffic expected from high-density development adjacent to Vienna.

JANUARY 1964 – The 1964 session of the General Assembly approved a new Town Charter, which makes a number of significant improvements in the structure of the Town government. The most important is the establishment of a Council-Manager form of government.

CALL THESE NUMBERS 24 HOURS A DAY:

VIENNA NEWSLINE – 703-255-6333

POLICE INFO LINE – 703-255-6363

TO ORDER A SPECIAL PICKUP – 703-255-5727

Visit the Town's web site at www.ci.vienna.va.us

<p>FIRE & RESCUE 911 (Voice & TDD)</p> <p>VIENNA POLICE EMERGENCY 703-938-4900 (Voice) 703-255-5730 (TDD) NON-EMERGENCY 703-255-6366 (Voice) 703-255-5730 (TDD)</p> <p>VIENNA TOWN HALL 703-255-6300 (Voice) 703-255-5735 (TDD)</p> <p>COMMUNITY CENTER 703-255-6360 (Voice) 703-255-5739 (TDD)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Vienna Town Hall 127 Center Street, South Vienna, Virginia 22180-5799 Business Hours Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Town of Vienna does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. The Director of Public Works has been designated to coordinate compliance with the non-discrimination requirements.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This document will be made available in large print or on audio cassette upon request. Call 703-255-6330, TDD 703-255-5735.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PRSRST STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID Vienna, Va. Permit No. 36</p>
<p>ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER VIENNA, VA 22180</p>		

Tax Relief Asset Cap Increased

On December 1, the Town Council approved an increase in the asset cap for tax relief for elderly and disabled residents from \$160,000 to \$190,000, effective for the 2003 tax year. The increase makes the Town's tax relief asset cap the same as Fairfax County's.

Both the Town of Vienna and Fairfax County offer real estate tax relief for low-income homeowners who are 65 years old and over, or permanently and totally disabled. To qualify, the following requirements must be met:

- Total household income of \$52,000 or less. This amount excludes \$6,500 of income of relatives, other than the spouse, who reside in the household. Also excluded is \$7,500 of any income received by a disabled homeowner. 100% tax relief is given for total combined income of \$40,000 or less, 50% tax relief between \$40,001 and \$46,000, and 25% tax relief between \$46,001 and \$52,000.

- Total combined assets of no more than \$190,000. This amount excludes the value of the residence, up to one acre of land, and household furnishings.

For more information and to obtain Town application forms, call 703-255-6325.



NEWSLETTER

January 2004

Maple Ave. Project Wins Award

Phase II of the Maple Avenue Enhancement Project has been selected to receive a 2003 Community Appearance Award from the Community Appearance Alliance of Northern Virginia. Alliance President Rosemary Byrne presented the award to Mayor Jane Seeman at a ceremony last month.

The Community Appearance Alliance sponsors its annual awards program to recognize worthy design and construction projects that enhance the aesthetic environment of the region. In announcing Vienna's award Byrne said, "This project is visually attractive and presents a welcome replacement to the old facility. We commend all involved for a job very well done."

The project area, from Park Street to East Street, includes brick sidewalks on each side of Maple Avenue, new curb and gutter, brick crosswalks at all intersections, new asphalt pavement surface, increased turning radii at intersections and driveway entrances, improved street lighting with ornamental poles and fixtures, elimination of utility poles on the north side of Maple Avenue, planter areas for shrubbery and trees, trash receptacles, benches, and new bus shelters. These design elements will benefit both businesses and shoppers by improving the general appearance of the area and increasing safety.

Police Solve Rash of Thefts In Southwest Vienna

Vienna Chief of Police Bob Carlisle has announced the arrest of three juveniles in connection with two dozen thefts in the southwest quadrant of town.

The crimes occurred on October 15. A number of vehicles were entered and many items taken, including cash, cell phones, phone chargers and other valuables. The same area has been the target of numerous thefts and vandalisms over the last few months.

The investigation by Master Police Officer Virginia Palmore and Detective Tina Brook led to the three juvenile suspects. A search of their homes produced the stolen items, and they were charged with a total of 24 criminal offenses.

The Vienna Police ask that all residents be alert for suspicious activity in their neighborhoods and report it immediately to the police at 703-255-6366.

NEW IN TOWN? Vienna's Public Information Office has a welcome packet especially for new residents. Stop by Town Hall & pick one up or call 703-255-6330 to have one mailed to you.

Holiday Schedule

Town Hall will be closed on Thursday, January 1, for New Year's Day and Monday, January 19, for Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. **NO CURBSIDE RECYCLING NEW YEAR'S DAY.** Trash will be collected as usual on January 19.

Christmas Tree Pickup

The Public Works Department will collect Christmas trees during the month of January. Place trees at the curbside on the second collection day of the week to be picked up along with recyclables. Trees should be unadorned (no tinsel).

Business License Deadline March 1

March 1 is the deadline for payment of the business, professional and occupational license (BPOL) tax. All businesses in the Town of Vienna, including home occupations, must renew their business licenses each year. The amount of the tax is based on gross receipts, and the rate varies according to the type of business. The gross receipts threshold is \$50,000, below which the tax does not apply. Those businesses with total annual gross receipts of \$50,000 or less pay only the minimum license fee of \$30 per year. License tax forms will be mailed out this month, and forms are also available in the Finance Department at Town Hall and online at www.ci.vienna.va.us. For more information or assistance in figuring license taxes, call 703-255-6321.

TOWN COUNCIL ACTION

All votes are unanimous unless noted otherwise.

NOVEMBER 3, 2003

- Approved closing Church Street between Lawyers Road and Mill Street to vehicular traffic on Monday evening, December 1, for the annual Church Street Holiday Stroll.

- Approved the purchase of a 2004 Ford one-ton truck cab and chassis with utility body option from Colonial Ford Truck Sales of Richmond.

- Conducted a closed session to discuss disposition of Town owned property (continued to November 10).

NOVEMBER 10, 2003

- Continued a closed session to discuss disposition of Town owned property, specifically leasing and/or occupancy of the Wright Building, at 144 Maple Ave., E.

NOVEMBER 17, 2003

- Conducted a closed session to interview candidates for reappointment to

Town boards and commissions. Reappointed Shirley Damon to the Board of Architectural Review for a two-year term. Recommended Gregory Haight to the Fairfax County Circuit Court for reappointment to the Town's Board of Zoning Appeals for a five-year term. Reappointed Steve Bukont to the Community Enhancement Commission, southeast quadrant representative, for a two-year term.

- Conducted a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Town's Chesapeake Bay preservation ordinance to comply with adopted changes in State regulations.

- Conducted a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Town's tax relief program for low-income elderly and handicapped residents.

- Approved the use of cable television franchise funds to obtain telecommunications consulting services that will provide design, oversight and implementation of a wide area network for Town owned buildings utilizing the Cox Communications supplied I-NET fiber optic network.

- Approved the expenditure of FY 2003-2004 funds for a "vulnerability assessment study" as required by the federal law known as the Public Health, Security and Bio-terrorism Response Act to Whitman, Requardt & Associates of Fairfax at an estimated cost of \$31,916.

- Adopted a resolution notifying the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors that the Town of Vienna does not wish to have any property included within the proposed Dulles Rail Transportation Improvement District.

- Granted Friday, December 26, as an additional holiday for Town employees. Authorized the Town Manager to transfer funds from the Contingency Account to appropriate overtime accounts to cover the additional cost of this holiday.

- Approved the assignment and transfer of the American Communications Services of Virginia (doing business as e-spire) telecommunications franchise to Xspedius Management Company of Virginia.

Is Your Organization On Our List?

Vienna's Public Information Office maintains a list of civic associations and community organizations that is made available to new residents and other interested citizens. The list is also used to notify organizations of Town meetings and other activities of interest to them, and in case of emergency.

To have your organization added to the list, or to update your current listing, contact the Public Information Office, 127 Center St., S., Vienna, VA 22180 or phone 703-255-6330, fax 703-255-5722, e-mail pio@ci.vienna.va.us. Please include your organization's mailing address, contact person with phone number and, if applicable, Web site address and e-mail.

TOWN OF VIENNA NEWSLETTER

Vol. CXIV, No. 1 Vienna, Virginia January 2004

VIENNA TOWN COUNCIL

M. Jane Seeman, Mayor

Albert J. Boudreau George E. Lovelace
Laurie Genevro Cole Maud F. Robinson
Edythe Frankel Kelleher Sydney H. Verinder

TOWN STAFF

Town Manager	John H. Schoeberlein	703-255-6370
Director of Public Works	Dennis W. King	703-255-6381
Chief of Police	Col. Robert A. Carlisle	703-255-6390
Director of Finance	Philip R. Grant	703-255-6320
Director of Parks & Recreation	Catherine L. Salgado	703-255-6356
Director of Planning & Zoning	Gregory M. Hembree	703-255-6341
Town Attorney	Steven D. Briglia	703-255-6305

Send news and comments to *Vienna Newsletter* c/o Town Hall.
Deadline for February issue is Thursday, January 15.

January		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day Town Hall closed	2	3
				NO CURBSIDE RECYCLING	9	10
				Town/Business Liaison Committee 6:30 p.m.	16	17
				Board of Architectural Review	23	24
				Community Enhancement Commission, 7:30 p.m.	30	31
				21 Board of Zoning Appeals		
				28 Planning Commission		
				27 Transportation Safety Commission		
				20 Mayor's Advisory Committee		
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Keep Your Child Safe from Strangers

Your Vienna Police Department's Community Services Office urges parents to read this important advice, reprinted with permission of the author, Gary Direnfeld, MSW:

There are few thoughts as terrifying as the abduction of your young child by a stranger. The fear causes parents to tell children in a very clear voice, "Do not talk to strangers."

The problem is, though, that a child's view of a stranger is very different from a parent's view. From the child's perspective, because a stranger is someone they are supposed to be afraid of, they expect a stranger to look ugly or scary. In fact, few, if any, strangers actually look like the child's notion. Then, to make matters more confusing for children, we teach them to respect and listen to their elders and be polite. As role models, children see us talk to people we have never met before, day in and day out. We even have them hug relatives they may never have met before!

So young children may very willingly avoid scary-looking strangers. However, when confronted by a friendly, kind-looking stranger, they will likely respond politely, which in most cases means "speaking when spoken to" and following their directions.

Parents who want to increase the likelihood that their children will avoid persons unknown must spend a good amount of time talking about the issue and teaching their children on an ongoing basis. These tips may help:

- When out in the community, in a matter-of-fact voice, point out the various people and ask your child if he/she knows them. Use this as an opportunity to explain that a stranger is any person we do not know, regardless of what they look like.

- Next, it becomes very important to differentiate the rules for grown-ups and the rules for children. Simply phrase it as, "Are you old enough to talk to people you don't know by yourself?" and then explain that they must have your permission to do so.

- In the event a stranger approaches, a child must be equipped with strategies to manage the situation. The child should be instructed to leave the person and immediately go to another adult they know, or older child if an adult is not available. It is important to teach the child that this behavior is not rude and that the child has your full permission to leave the situation and to do so immediately.

Managing your child's safety, in your absence, is truly a scary thought for most parents. We do not want to put undue fear in our children, but we do want to keep them from harm. It is important to understand how our own behavior may contradict what we want children to do when approached by people they do not know. We have to talk about the difference between what parents may do and what children may do. Only parents may touch the stove . . . only parents may talk to strangers.

Finally, in addition to teaching who NOT to talk to, we must also teach children who they CAN talk to. If, for instance, your child is lost in the store, who can they talk to? Develop a list of safe persons your child can talk to – even if they are strangers. The list may include police officers, firefighters, teachers and even cashiers in stores.

Remember, keeping children safe is an ongoing discussion and not a simple one-time set of rules. Keep talking with them to keep them safe.

Town Budget Receives Award

For the tenth consecutive year, the Town of Vienna has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. This award, for the fiscal year 2003-2004 budget, is the highest form of recognition for governmental budgeting.

In order to receive the award, a jurisdiction must satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well a government's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all of these categories to receive the award.

Copies of Vienna's budget are available for public review at Town Hall.

Maple Ave. Banner Applications Accepted Beginning January 1

Beginning January 1, non-profit community organizations may apply to display banners across Maple Avenue during 2004. Application forms are available in the Town Manager's Office at Town Hall. All groups wishing to display a banner must submit an application, including those which have had banners in previous years. Requests will be reviewed on a first come-first served basis.

Each application must be accompanied by a \$150 deposit, which will be returned if the applicant meets all conditions listed in the approval of the application, including picking up the banner by a specified date.

Each banner accepted may be displayed for no more than two weeks. The following dates in 2004 are not available and should not be requested: April 20-May 4, May 17-31, October 13-27, and November 22 through the entire month of December.

REQUESTS POSTMARKED OR HAND DELIVERED PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 2004, WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. FAXED REQUESTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT ANY TIME.

**Uncle
CECil
Wants
You!**



Remember, high school students, Uncle CECil wants YOU to apply for the student representative position on the Vienna Community Enhancement Commission (CEC) so you can serve during your senior year!

The CEC was created by the Town Council to enhance volunteer efforts to improve the appearance of all areas of town. Meetings are held at Town Hall the fourth Thursday of the month, except November and December, at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360, or e-mail parks@ci.vienna.va.us.

Community Volunteers to Be Honored

MAYOR JANE SEEMAN INVITES YOU TO NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER IN RECOGNITION OF HIS/HER SERVICE TO THE TOWN OF VIENNA. MAYOR SEEMAN PLANS TO HONOR THESE VOLUNTEERS AT THE MAYOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING ON TUESDAY, APRIL 13. PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS FORM TO MAYOR SEEMAN AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN BELOW. NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BEFORE MARCH 1.

NOMINATION FORM FOR OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE NATURE OF THE VOLUNTEER WORK PERFORMED BY THE NOMINEE AND WHY YOU FEEL HE/SHE DESERVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

NAME OF NOMINATING PERSON OR ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BEFORE MARCH 1, 2004, TO:

**MAYOR JANE SEEMAN
VIENNA TOWN HALL
127 CENTER STREET, SOUTH
VIENNA, VIRGINIA 22180**

Special Pickups Resume Jan. 2

The Town's Special Pickup program will resume on Friday, January 2. To dispose of unwanted furniture, appliances, building materials, brush and other debris not included in the regular trash collection, residents can order a Special Pickup. Place discards at the curbside, then call the Special Pickup recording *promptly* at 703-255-5727 and be prepared to leave the following information: your name, address, daytime phone number, amount of debris, and type of debris.

Each residence is entitled to receive two free Special Pickups per year, with a limit of one dump truck load per pickup (about the size of a Volkswagon "beetle"). Additional pickups cost \$75 per load for all items except brush. The fee for additional loads of brush is \$25 each.

Special Pickup Guidelines

*Residents may call 703-255-5727 to arrange for a Special Pickup.
The amounts and type of debris are limited to the following:*

1. Discarded furniture, swing sets and playground equipment.
2. Sod and brush.
3. Up to 300 pounds of scrap metal, small automobile parts such as engine blocks, transmissions and tires. All tires must be removed from the rim.
4. Trees and limbs of a diameter greater than 1½ inches and less than 6 inches and no more than 8 feet in length.
5. Up to two major appliances. Major appliances include stoves, dishwashers, refrigerators, washers, dryers, hot water heaters, air conditioners, and furnaces.
6. Building materials (not generated by contractor), including wood, broken concrete, bricks or block, fences, drywall, and paneling. Up to 300 pounds (approximately two wheelbarrow loads) of masonry items such as concrete, brick, block, stone, rock, etc.

The following items will **not** be picked up:

1. Gas tanks, fuel oil tanks and pressurized tanks such as propane, air or freon.
2. Mounted tires.
3. Tree stumps and tree parts over 6 inches in diameter.
4. Paint cans.
5. Biohazardous waste including needles and syringes.
6. Contractor generated material.
7. Brush and trash that are mixed.
8. Chain link fencing.

- Please do not place discards under power lines or trees, or close to shrubs, walls or vehicles. Place all items in an open area accessible to a crane truck.
- Please separate brush, appliances, building materials, etc. from each other. This makes it easier for pickup crews to salvage recyclable items, reducing the amount of debris taken to the landfill.
- Residents of corner lots are requested to place discards in front of the property, not on the side.

Hazardous Waste Disposal Program

Hazardous materials such as fuel tanks, paints, solvents, insecticides, etc. can be disposed of through the Fairfax County Hazardous Waste Disposal Program. The drop-off center for hazardous waste is the I-66 Citizens' Recycling and Disposal Facility located at 4618 West Ox Rd. (just beyond the Fire & Rescue training academy). Call 703-324-5068 for further information.

Call Promptly for Your Special Pickup

Residents are reminded to call the Special Pickup number, 703-255-5727, as soon as debris is placed at the curbside. Piles of trash that go uncollected for weeks on end because of residents' failure to call for a Special Pickup are an eyesore and a potential health and safety hazard.

When an "illegal" pile of trash is spotted by or reported to Town personnel, the resident will receive a notice to call for a Special Pickup within 48 hours. If no action is taken by the resident after the notice is issued, the Town will seek legal remedy to gain compliance with the Town Code.

It is illegal to place debris in the right-of-way without arranging for a Special Pickup.

Mulch Delivery Begins This Month

The Public Works Department will deliver ground leaf mulch and ground wood mulch to town residents free of charge beginning in mid-January. Orders will be taken through February 27. To place your order, call the "Mulch Line" recording, 703-255-6388, and leave your name, address, daytime phone number, type of mulch desired (wood or leaf), and the number of loads to be delivered. One load is estimated to be about the size of a VW Beetle, or 2-2.5 cubic yards. Half loads are available on request.

Please note the following important conditions:

- **Mulch deliveries will be placed only in the driveway at the end closest to the house.**
- **Once mulch is delivered, it becomes the property of the homeowner and the Town will not remove any excess mulch ordered.**

Residents may pick up mulch themselves in any amount between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday from January 28 until April 15. The mulch is stored on Town-owned property off Beulah Road near Glyndon Park. Look for the sign, "Free Leaf Mulch & Wood Mulch."

Regular donors may leave publications at the usual location on the third Tuesday of the month from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. *only*. (Be sure to remove mailing labels from magazines.) First-time donors may call project chairman Florence Roseborough at 703-281-2498 for information.

Wesley Preschool, 711 Spring St., S.E., is offering a class one day per week beginning January 5 for children who will turn three years old by April 30. Children must be toilet trained. For more information, call the preschool office at 703-938-3970.

Bland Memorial Music Scholarship Contest for students through grade 12 will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 28, at the Vienna Assembly of God Church, 100 Ayr Hill Ave., N.E. Participants will compete for a chance to win scholarships at the state level. The contest is sponsored locally by the Vienna (Host) Lions Club, and the entry deadline is February 14. For application forms and more information, call Rhoda Stevens, 703-281-0497.

Vienna AARP will meet at 1 p.m. Monday, January 19, at the Vienna Community Center. The program will feature a performance by the Merry Makers. For more information, call Emilie Larson at 703-938-1379.

Jane Franklin Dance Company will present "Narrative & Movement" for ages 5 and older at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 27, at Patrick Henry Library. Learn how to dance a story! To register for this free program and for more information, call the library at 703-938-0405.

Looking for a worthwhile New Year's resolution? Volunteer for one of the Committee for Helping Others' programs to help with food shopping or delivery of Meals on Wheels; transportation to medical appointments; distribution of food, clothing and furniture; and other assistance. To volunteer and for more information, contact CHO Chairman Blaine Lotz, P.O. Box 233, Vienna, VA 22183 or call 703-281-0074.

Citizens invited to Participate In Jamestown Anniversary Celebration

Planning for the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown in 1607 is underway throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Jamestown was the first permanent settlement in the New World for what was to become the United States.

A Virginia 2007 Community Program has been established so that citizens can participate in this celebration. The program will enable various entities to prepare commemorative events, exhibits, and other items to recognize this historical occasion. In order to be recognized as an official Virginia 2007 Community, the Town of Vienna must:

- ★ Organize a committee of community leaders;
- ★ Examine our community history;
- ★ Complete a project to preserve our history;
- ★ Evaluate Vienna as a place in which to live, work and visit;
- ★ Adopt a project of lasting value to the community to be finished during or before 2007;
- ★ Plan a local commemorative activity for 2007; and
- ★ Invite former residents and all Americans to "Come Home to Virginia."

As a first step, Mayor Jane Seeman invites interested citizens, businesses and organizations to a meeting at 2 p.m. Tuesday, January 13, at Town Hall to explore ideas that will mark the 2007 occasion. Mayor Seeman has asked Historic Vienna, Inc., to serve as the coordinator for the kick-off meeting, with permanent annual chairs to be selected by the participating groups. Preliminary information may be obtained by contacting Paul D. Snodgrass, Historic Vienna Administrator, at 703-938-5187, e-mail hviadmin@ci.vienna.va.us. For information on the celebration statewide, visit www.jamestown2007.org.

Sewer Backups Are Expensive! Backup Insurance Is Not!

All insurance companies writing homeowner policies in Virginia offer special coverage for damage resulting from backups of drains and sewers, and this additional protection is available at very reasonable rates. For information on obtaining sewer backup coverage, contact your insurance company. The Town's insurance carrier rarely approves claims resulting from sewer backups unless negligence in maintaining the system can be shown. Therefore, residents are encouraged to protect their property by obtaining sewer backup insurance.

If you experience a problem with clogged sewer lines in your home, call the Public Works Department, 703-255-6381, before you call a commercial sewer cleaning service; you may save yourself the price of a service call. A public works crew will check out the main sewer line and, if the obstruction occurs there, will clean it out at no charge to you.

To help prevent sewer backups, the Public Works Department cleans the main sewer lines whenever residents notify the department that their service laterals have been rodded by a commercial sewer cleaning service. Pressure cleaning to remove material washed into the main sewer line from the service lateral may help prevent future blockage of the main line. If you have your sewer service lateral cleaned, please call the Public Works Department.

The discharge of anything other than waste and toilet paper through residential sewers can cause a stoppage in the house line or in the main sewer, resulting in property damage. Items that should **never** be flushed down toilets include disposable diapers, paper towels and sanitary napkins. Even cigarette filters can get caught and cause problems. These and any other non-fluid items should be disposed of with the regular household trash.

Flood Insurance – The Town of Vienna participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, which covers direct losses caused by surface flooding, including local drainage problems. Copies of the Flood Insurance Rate Map are available for review in the Department of Public Works. For more information, call 703-255-6381 or visit www.ci.vienna.va.us.

HAPPENINGS AROUND OUR TOWN

Vienna Girls Softball League will hold walk-in registration at the Vienna Community Center January 10 and 17 from 9 a.m. to noon. Mail-in registration forms are available in the Community Center lobby and online at www.vgsl.org. Tee-ball, Coach Pitch, 10U, 12U and Senior divisions are open. Indoor clinics will be offered in January and February, with regular season play in April and May.

Vienna Little League (VLL), for boys and girls ages 5-12, is now accepting registrations for the 2004 baseball season. Online registration is available for returning players at www.vll.org. All new players must register in person at the Vienna Community Center in January; consult the Web site for dates and times. Parents should bring the child's birth certificate and proof of residency.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 227, will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, January 15, at Neighbor's Restaurant in the Cedar Lane Shopping Center. LTC Drew Troxler, USAR (Ret.), will speak on his Vietnam War experience of mobilizing an Army reserve transportation company for service in South Vietnam in 1968. For more information, call 703-255-0353 or visit www.geocities.com/vva227.

Breakfast buffet, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary of Vienna, will be held on Sunday, January 18, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Dyer-Gunnell Post 180, 330 Center St., N. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. For more information, call Shirley Martin at 703-938-6580.

Newcomers Club of Vienna and Friends will hold their regular luncheon meeting at noon Thursday, January 8, at Marco Polo Restaurant. Guest speaker will be John Gilstrap, author of *Nathan's Run* and *At All Costs*. The club also sponsors bridge groups, book exchange, trips and tours, and a bowling league. For more information, call 703-938-3505 or 703-560-4437.

Donations for wounded service men and women returning from Iraq to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washing-

ton, DC, are requested by the American Red Cross. Needed most are phone cards, men's and women's underclothing and white socks of all sizes, and "creature comforts" such as games and puzzles, playing cards, CD's and CD players. Toiletries cannot be accepted. Town residents may drop off donations at Vienna American Legion Post 180, ATTN: JOYCE, 330 Center St., N. For more information concerning donations or to volunteer to sort and distribute items, contact Barbara Green at 202-782-6362 or e-mail Barbara.green.1@amedd.army.mil.

Vienna Photographic Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 7, in the Lecture Hall at Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Ln. Guest speakers Gary Silverstein and Dave Carter will discuss night photography. For more information, call Mo at 703-816-2423 or visit www.safeport.com/vps.

American Legion Auxiliary of Vienna will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 14, at American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St., N. For information, call Shirley Martin at 703-938-6580.

National Capital Bird Club is for pet bird lovers. The next meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, January 4, at the McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Rd. Birds welcome. Bring a snack to share. For information, call 301-946-3511 or visit www.ncbc-dc.org.

The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna will hold an open house and registration for the winter session of its "Adventures in Learning" program for ages 50 and older from 10 a.m. to noon Thursday, January 8, at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, 344 Courthouse Rd., S.W. Classes will be held each Thursday, January 15-March 4, and include Tai Chi, world affairs, bridge, writing your life story, a health series on loss, and many more. The fee is \$30 for four classes (additional fee for computer and drawing classes). For more information, call 703-281-0538.

Northern Virginia Model Railroaders will hold an open house at the Vi-

enna Railroad Station, corner of Dominion Road and Ayr Hill Avenue, N.E., on Saturday, January 17, from noon to 4 p.m. Admission is free; donations accepted. See the Western North Carolina operating HO scale model railroad layout, set in the 1950's, that is on permanent display at the station. For information, call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

Vienna Arts Society (VAS) recently presented \$500 to James Madison High School's Art Department, which is building a permanent gallery where students will be able to display their work. The VAS gallery in the Village Green Shopping Center is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. The current show through January 17 is "Atypical," featuring multimedia artist Gertrud Mohr-Friedrich. Joe Phillips' exhibit, "Flower Power," opens January 18. For information, call 703-319-3971 or visit www.viennaartsociety.org.

La Leche League of Vienna will meet at 10 a.m. January 7 and February 4. Pregnant and nursing women and their children are welcome to attend. The topic for January is "Solids, Weaning and Family Nutrition." For more information and meeting location, call 703-281-5801 or 703-716-4872, or e-mail abcgray@hotmail.com.

New Life Wellness Center, 301 Maple Ave., W., will present "Five Secrets to Permanent Weight Loss" on January 12 and "Understanding Fibromyalgia: A Holistic Approach to Chronic Pain and Fatigue" on January 19. Free of charge. Programs begin at 7:30 p.m. To register and for more information, call 703-242-7474 or visit www.newlifewellness.com. Need a speaker for your group? The New Life Doctors' Speakers Bureau provides workshops on a variety of natural health related topics free of charge.

Your old magazines and paperback books (no hard covers) are welcomed by detainees at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center through the Literacy Project sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Fairfax County Chapter.

Welcome New Businesses

The following business licenses were issued in November:

Butcher Sullivan <i>law office</i> 222 Moore Ave., S.E. 703-873-1600	Nail Experts <i>nail care</i> 301 Maple Ave., W. #B 703-319-1296	Innovative Functional Fitness <i>personal trainer</i> 222 Battle St., S.W. 703-861-4266
Tactile Marketing Group <i>public relations</i> 1211 Kelley St., S.W. 703-963-5238	Vocelli Pizza <i>restaurant</i> 334 Maple Ave., E. 703-319-0666	

Convenient Location & Friendly Service

SHOP IN VIENNA

Support Our Hometown Merchants

Congratulations to the following businesses, both commercial and home occupations, celebrating milestone anniversaries this month: *40 years* – Cedar Park & Shop, P. Daniel Orlich; *30 years* – Agro-Lawn Systems, Bill's Golf Shop, J. Kenneth Bowman, Jades Enterprises, R.W. Sink Top Mfg.; *20 years* – Management Systems Designers, NV Commercial, Richard L. Gaertner, Jr., Vienna Psychotherapy & Counseling; *10 years* – Castle Realty, E.J. Construction Engineering, Judith A. Moore, Kent H. Bradford, Nancy C. Fretta, Vienna Shoe Repair, Vienna Woods Studios, Wendy K. Snyder.

FY '05 Donation Requests Due

Friday, February 6, is the deadline for non-profit Vienna organizations to apply for donations of Town funds in fiscal year 2004-2005. Applications should be addressed to Town Manager John H. Schoeberlein, Vienna Town Hall, 127 Center St., S., Vienna, VA 22180-5799. All requests must include the following information:

- Name of the organization and names and addresses of its officers;
- Purpose of the organization and a description of its programs and activities;
- Percentage of members or participants who live in town or who own or are employed by town businesses;
- Organization budget showing all income and expenses for the year in which the donation will be used;
- Amount of funding requested from the Town;
- Purpose for which the donation will be used;
- Synopsis of the fund-raising activities being conducted during the current year;
- Statement signed by the principal officer that membership or participation is open to all residents and business people in town without regard to race, national origin, religion or sex.

Citizen Budget Input Welcome

Citizens who have suggestions about what items should be given priority for funding in the Town's FY '05 budget are encouraged to express their views in writing to the Town Manager in care of Town Hall. The deadline for comments is February 6.

Please Shovel Snow If Possible

Residents who are physically able are requested to shovel snow from sidewalks next to their property for the safety of pedestrians, especially schoolchildren. Although some jurisdictions in our area have adopted ordinances requiring residents to shovel sidewalks, the Town of Vienna has no such requirement, mainly because it would impose a hardship on elderly and disabled residents.

Vienna area teens are available to shovel snow and help with other odd jobs. The teen and the person needing the work decide on the amount to be paid for the service. Teens can sign up at the Community Center, and residents can call 703-255-6360 to be matched with a young worker.

Town businesses that hire snowplows to clear their parking lots should make sure that snow is not piled onto adjoining sidewalks or pushed into the street. Also, it is illegal to block handicapped parking spaces with snow.

Snow Removal Award

The Town/Business Liaison Committee (T/BLC), at the suggestion of the Town Council, has created a snow removal award. This winter, if you feel that any businesses or citizens have done an excellent job in removing snow from their driveways and/or sidewalks, or helped others in removing snow, please nominate them for this award. The awards will be presented at Town Council meetings. To make a nomination and for more information, e-mail tblc@ci.vienna.va.us or call the Planning and Zoning Department at 703-255-6341.

Dog Tag Deadline

All Town dog licenses must be renewed by January 31. The fee is \$10 for a fertile dog and \$5 for an infertile dog. A current rabies vaccination certificate must be shown to obtain a license, and a spay/neuter/infertile certificate must be shown for a reduced price license. For more information, call the Finance Department at 703-255-6323.

NEWS FROM VIENNA PARKS & REC

For more information about any of the activities listed below, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360. All activities are held at the Vienna Community Center unless stated otherwise.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Vienna Theatre Company will present Larry Shue's comedy, "The Nerd," at the Vienna Community Center January 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 and 31 at 8 p.m. and January 18 at 2 p.m. (signed performance). Tickets are \$8 general admission and \$7 for students and senior citizens age 65 and older. Tickets are available at the Community Center.

BUS TRIPS

Ski Liberty trip is scheduled for Monday, January 26. A charter bus will leave the Community Center at 9 a.m. and return around 8:30 p.m. Children under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult. Call for prices of the various combination packages. Reservation deadline January 16.

Weekend ski getaway to the Poconos February 6-8. Leave the Community Center at 6 p.m. Friday and return around 9 p.m. Sunday. Spend two nights at the Days Inn and Conference Center in Danville, PA, including buffet meals, entertainment and activities, and enjoy skiing at Jack Frost and Eagle Rock Resorts. Call for prices. Reservation deadline January 16.

Diane Rehm Show live from the National Geographic Society, Friday, January 16. Leave the Community Center at 9:15 a.m. and return at 3 p.m. Following the show, there will be time for lunch and viewing Geographic Society exhibits. The cost for transportation is \$18 for town residents.

AT THE TEEN CENTER

Open house for parents will be held at Club Phoenix on Wednesday, January 14, from 6 to 7 p.m. View the facility, learn about programs, meet the staff, complete the required registration form, discuss issues and concerns, or sign up to serve on the Club Phoenix Parent Advisory Committee.

8-ball tournament for 6th graders will be held on Friday, January 16, from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Admission is free and prizes will be given to the winners.

"Start the Year Off with a Bang" dance for middle school students Friday, January 9, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Keep your New Year's celebration going with fun and games. Admission \$4.

Concert for high school students featuring live bands Saturday, January 10, from 7 to 11 p.m. Admission \$5.

JUST FOR KIDS

Roller skating for children ages 3-10 will be held on Mondays, January 26-March 8, from 3 to 4 p.m. Admission is 50¢. Children must be accompanied by an adult, and participants must furnish their own skates and safety equipment.

Kids Night Out Friday, January 9, from 6 to 9 p.m. Kids ages 5-10 can enjoy an evening of pizza, crafts and a movie. Admission for town residents is \$15 per child, and \$6 for each additional child in the family.

MANAGING YOUR MONEY & YOUR ESTATE

Why Good Wills Go Bad Monday, January 12, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Join attorney David Hoffman for a discussion of Virginia will law, organizing your assets, when to change your will, talking to your executor, reducing probate, will copies, do-it-yourself tax plans and more. Free of charge; no advance registration required.

MATURE ADULTS

Take a fantasy vacation to Disney World on Monday, January 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Learn how to put together that ideal trip to Disney World and its many attractions from 14-time Disney World visitor David Hoffman, plus tips on

how to plan your own event from Mary Derderian of Wrap It Up Invitations and Event Planning. This program is free of charge, but advance registration is required and participants are to bring a salad, appetizer or other food for a pot-luch luncheon.

"Waterfowl and Wetlands" will be presented on Monday, January 26, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Join ornithologist Bill Stott for a slide show about waterfowl and wetlands conservation. Free of charge, but advance registration required. Program coordinated by the Ayr Hill Garden Club.

Wintertime walking group meets on Mondays and Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m. Walkers gather in the Community Center lobby and decide where to walk. Instructor-led walks will resume in the spring. Free of charge.

Did you know? These groups meet at the Community Center:

- AARP – Contact Emily Larson, 703-938-1379;
- NARFE (National Association of Retired Federal Employees) – Contact Ginger King, 703-938-6845;
- 50-90 Club – Contact Paul Schmitt, 703-255-4743;
- Vienna Seniors Bridge Club – Contact Richard Hogan, 703-476-9819.

POTPOURRI

Personal Safety for Women will be held in four parts – January 21, 26, 28 and February 4 – from 7 to 10 p.m. (*All sessions must be attended.*) Your instructor will be Officer Virginia Palmore of the Vienna Police Department. The class includes basic education in crime prevention and risk reduction measures plus practice in physical self-defense techniques. Participants should expect to become more confident both physically and psychologically in an attack situation. The fee is \$5 for town residents plus a \$15 materials fee; registration required.

Portable Generators: How to Use Them Safely

The U.S. Consumer product Safety Commission wants consumers to know that portable generators can be hazardous if used improperly. The hazards are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust and electrocution from connecting the generator to the home electrical wiring system.

To avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning:

- Never use a generator indoors or in attached garages.
- Only operate the generator *outdoors* in a well-ventilated, dry area, away from air intakes to the home, and protected from direct exposure to rain and snow, preferably under a canopy, open shed, or carport.

To avoid electrocution:

- Plug individual appliances into the generator using heavy-duty, outdoor rated cords with a wire gauge adequate for the appliance load.
- Observe the generator manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.
- Do not plug the generator into a wall outlet.
- If connecting the generator into the house wiring is necessary, have a qualified electrician hook up the standby electrical system, or have the local utility install a linking device if available.

Never store gasoline in the home. Gasoline, kerosene and other flammable liquids should be stored outside of living areas in properly labeled, non-glass safety containers. They should also not be stored in a garage if a fuel-burning appliance is in the garage. The vapor from gasoline can travel invisibly along the ground and be ignited by pilot lights or arcs caused by activating electric switches.

If at all possible, avoid connecting the electrical output of the generator into the house wiring. Instead, connect individual appliances that have their own outdoor rated power cord directly to the receptacle outlet of the generator, or connect these cord-connected appliances to the generator's electrical outlet via a suitable, outdoor-rated extension cord having a sufficient wire gauge to handle the electrical load.

If connecting into the house wiring is necessary on a temporary basis to operate permanently wired equipment, such as a water pump, furnace blower/controls, room lighting, etc., there are important steps that require the utmost care to avoid electrocution. In some locations, the local utility company may offer to install a device at the electric meter socket to permit their customers to connect a portable generator to the household wiring during periods of power outages. If that service is not available or chosen, another method is to have a qualified electrician install a manual transfer switch.

A transfer switch permits transfer of the load from the household power source that is normally supplied by the electric utility over to the portable generator. The transfer switch should be certified by UL or other independent test lab for this application, and be mounted within an electrical box. Transfer switches and related accessories designed for connecting a standby system are available from electrical supply stores. These accessories include cord sets with special locking and recessed connectors, electrical boxes with controls for the branch circuits that will receive temporary power from the generator, and feeder cable to connect the existing electrical panel to the transfer switch.

When properly installed, the transfer switch will isolate the circuits supplied by the generator from those normally supplied by the utility. This prevents inadvertently energizing circuits in both systems, and reduces the possibility of electrocution resulting from contact with conductors presumed to be de-energized.

Do not operate more appliances and equipment than the output rating of the generator.

Retail Business Guide Planned

The Town/Business Liaison Committee is in the process of creating a new retail shopping guide and will be hosting a coffee this month to introduce the guide. All retail business owners and managers within the Town of Vienna are invited to attend this coffee and list their businesses in the guide. The coffee will be held on Wednesday, January 14, from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at Town Hall. The coffee will also give business owners and managers the opportunity to meet with the Mayor and Town Council members. For more information, e-mail tblc@ci.vienna.va.us or call 703-255-6342.

Helpful Winter Water Tips

This time of year poses particular problems for a water system. Your Vienna Public Works Department appreciates citizen reports of water surfacing on roadways because this is a primary indicator of water main breaks. Water puddling around water meters should also be reported immediately.

Here are some tips for protecting pipes this winter:

- Locate and be able to operate the main shut-off valve, inside the house.
- Prior to freezing temperatures, cut off outside spigots, at inside valves, then drain spigots and leave open. If this is not possible, a trickle of water may be run from spigots as long as the temperature remains below freezing. Detach hoses from all outside spigots and drain them.
- Any interior water lines in unheated areas such as garages should be protected in some manner, for example, by insulation or draining.
- Interior water lines should be protected against drafts entering the house through holes in the walls or vents in crawl spaces.
- Interior water lines touching outside walls above ground level should be insulated.
- Never use an open flame to thaw frozen pipes. Instead, use a hair dryer.