



TOWN OF

VIENNA NEWSLETTER

Vol. 70-11

November, 1970

VIENNA BASEBALL PLAYERS HONORED



The American Legion Baseball team, winners of the District and State trophies will be honored at an Awards banquet by the Dyer Gunneil, Post 180 at the Legion Hall on Oct. 25, 6 p.m. Vienna Town officials have been invited to attend.

VETERANS DAY CEREMONIES

Veterans' Day observances will be held on the steps of Town Hall on Nov. 11 at 10 a.m. American Legion Post 180 is in charge of the ceremonies which will include a presentation of the colors.

All residents of Vienna are invited to attend the observances. Center Street will be closed from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on the morning of Nov. 11, as seats are set up in the street in front of Town Hall

CALENDARS



Many inquiries are being received about the new Annual Report Calendars -- These are at the printers, and should reach you in November,

FOREWORD:

The Vienna Town Council voted to go on record and vigorously and urgently support endorsement of the proposed amendments to the Constitution of the great State of Virginia.

For the benefit of citizens who may not be informed on these revisions which will be voted on in the November 3 election, we are presenting a summary of the amendments in this Newsletter.

Mayor Joseph R. Spriggs

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS

On November 3, you will be asked to vote on amendments to the Constitution of Virginia which were agreed to, at the last meeting of the General Assembly.

WHAT WILL YOU BE VOTING FOR?

There will be four proposals on the ballot to be voted on Yes or No.

1 - GENERAL REVISIONS - This is the first general revision of the State Constitution since 1928. The proposals will eliminate obsolete sections, such as those dealing with duelling. It will delete unnecessary detail and reorganize some parts for greater coherence, making the new constitution roughly half the size of the old. It will also deligate to the General Assembly the right to legislate in many areas now covered by the constitution.

Some of the proposed items are: Providing for annual sessions of the General Assembly which now meets every two years. Establishing procedures to be followed in the event of the death or disability of a Governor. Eliminating references to a poll tax. Granting citizens the right to bear arms. Allowing localities to grant tax relief to homeowners over 65 who live on means which are disproportionate to their tax burden. Authorizing State backing of student loans for persons attending non-religious colleges and universities in Virginia. The minimum voting age remains at 21. Compulsory education to age 16 has also been put back into the Constitution after having been removed in 1956.

The two provisions encountering some controversy are those recognizing the concept of regional government by referendum, and State control of the



EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

MONDAY - Nov. 2 Council Meeting Mini bikes will be on agenda

TUESDAY - Nov. 3 Commission on Human Rights and Community Relations

TUESDAY - Nov. 3 Election Day

WEDNESDAY - Nov. 4 Planning Commission

TUESDAY - Nov. 10 Mayor's Advisory Committee

WEDNESDAY - Nov. 11 Veterans Day

SATURDAY - Nov. 14 Woman's Club Arts & Crafts Festival - Community Center

MONDAY - Nov. 16 Council Meeting

WEDNESDAY - Nov. 18 Board of Zoning Appeals

THURSDAY - Nov. 19 Architectural Review Board

TUESDAY - Nov. 24 Highway Safety Commission

WEDNESDAY - Nov. 25 Planning Commission

THURSDAY - Nov. 26 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

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Mayor & Council Town of Vienna, Virginia

SPECIAL SUMMARY ON CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS VOTE - NOVEMBER 3



YOUR NEW COUNCILMAN

ROBERT J. SKAHAN

The Vienna Town Council appointed Robert J. Skahan to the Council vacancy created by the election of Mayor Joseph R. Spriggs.

Mr. Skahan has been active in Vienna for a number of years and at the time of his appointment was a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals. He serves as Parliamentarian on the Fairfax County Architectural Review Board, and is a Lt. Cmdr. in the United States Naval Reserve.

The new Councilman is a lawyer in private practice, and came to this area from New York. He received both his Bachelor's and Law degrees from the University of Richmond.

Formerly with the U. S. Department of Labor in the Office of the Solicitor, he is a member of many Bar Associations including the Virginia State Bar, the Bar Association of the District of Columbia and the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association. Among his many civic activities are church work and active membership in the Westbriar Civic Association.

Mr. Skahan was sworn in at the Council Meeting by Fairfax Circuit Court Clerk Franklin Gooding. His wife and four children were present for the Swearing-In.



schools. The regional government provision has been put into the constitution, not for immediate use, but in the event that in the years ahead the need for larger units of government than are presently supplied by County and city may be required. If so, the Constitution would allow it, but the people would still be required to vote for or against it in referendum. The intent of providing more State control of the schools is to improve the quality of education.

2 - LOTTERIES - This amendment proposes that voters strike from the Constitution the prohibition against State lotteries, leaving the General Assembly to decide whether to permit or forbid them.

3 - GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS - This would enable the State to incur larger general obligation debt for capital projects with a limit on the amount which can be incurred in any 4 year period, and a cumulative overall limit. The total borrowing is not to exceed 1.15 times the annual income and sales tax revenues of the Commonwealth. A popular referendum would still be required to approve each bond issue. Present borrowing limits for the State have already been reached.

4 - REVENUE BONDS - These bonds are not subject to approval of the people in referendum. The amendment would allow the General Assembly by a 2/3 vote to pledge the full faith and credit of the Commonwealth to revenue bonds issued for revenue-producing capital projects, if the Governor certifies that the anticipated revenues from the projects would be sufficient to pay principal and interest as they become due. There is a ceiling on the total amount of borrowing permitted. An example of such borrowing would be the case of a college wishing to build a new dormitory. Borrowing would be permitted if sufficient payment can be made on interest and principal from student fees to retire the bonds.

HOW CAN YOU MAKE THE BEST DECISION ON WHICH WAY TO VOTE?

A reading of comparison texts of the old and new Constitutions is the best means of determining the worth of the new Constitution, providing the reader has sufficient knowledge of government to evaluate them. The alternative is one's faith in the elected officials of the Commonwealth.

The Constitutional revisions are supported by the elected representatives of both parties in the General Assembly.

Vienna Councilman, Richard Dingman said in a recent letter to the editors of area newspapers; "Politics in Virginia are probably more partisan today than they have ever been. It takes a truly unusual issue with undeniable value to the entire State to warrant and obtain the widespread bipartisan support being given the Constitution revision."



LEAF REMOVAL

Questions are being received on when leaf removal will begin. It is customary for the Public Works Department to wait until after the first hard freeze before beginning pick-up operations. This usually occurs about the middle of November.



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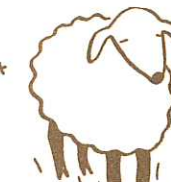
PROGRESS REPORT

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Council appointed Herbert G. Fahy to the Vienna Board of Zoning Appeals to fill the unexpired term of Robert Skahan. His term ends 9/14/71.

James Pammel was re-appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five year term to expire 9/14/75.

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NORTHSIDE PARK

Authorization was given to the Town Manager by Council to proceed with the construction of a small animal zoo at Northside Park. The Rotary Club will assist with this project.

VIENNA DISTRICT PARK



Through the efforts of Supervisor Martha Pennino and Fred Crabtree, member of the Park Authority for the District, authorization for a Vienna District Park was passed by the Fairfax Board of Supervisors.

The park will be located off of Courthouse Road near Oakton High School and will be an activity park with playing fields, tennis courts and other facilities. It will be a part of the Fairfax County Park system but is intended to serve Vienna residents.

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