

VIENNA VOICE

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

SEPT./OCT.
2025

Raise a Glass to Vienna Oktoberfest

Cheers, beers and volunteers are on tap for Vienna Oktoberfest, Saturday, Oct. 4., 2025, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on historic Church Street. Enjoy live entertainment on three different stages, beverages from two beer and wine gardens, multinational food vendors including traditional German fare, and lots of free, family friendly games and activities. There's also a free shuttle to Oktoberfest from the Vienna Metro and James Madison High School, and a bike garden for people who want to ride to the event and park their bikes. So, grab your friends, put on your Oktoberfest best (Dirndl dress and lederhosen are optional) and come hungry, thirsty, and ready for a day of fun.

Oktoberfest is an annual charitable fundraiser presented by the Vienna Business Association in partnership with the Town of Vienna. Volunteers are needed to keep the event running smoothly. To learn more about Oktoberfest and volunteer opportunities, visit www.viennaoktoberfest.org. 🍷



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Vienna Halloween Parade Steps into the Spotlight

The 79th annual Vienna Halloween Parade takes center stage at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 29 on Maple Avenue. From dazzling floats to lively bands and costumed kids, the evening promises show-stopping fun for the whole family with a “Broadway on Maple” theme.

This year’s parade will look a little different from previous years. Temporary metal fencing will be placed on each side of Maple Avenue from Branch Road to Center Street to ensure pedestrian and parade-goer safety. The fencing will provide an expanded seating area and the opportunity for parade-watchers to see the show from a closer viewpoint. Extended road closures and new traffic patterns will also be in place.

Children and parents who’d like to join in on the fun and walk in the parade can meet at 6 p.m. at United Bank, 374 Maple Ave., E. Whether you decide to dress up as Glinda, Elphaba, Alexander Hamilton, or the Phantom of the Opera, costumes are encouraged—but not required. Just be sure to bring your best stage presence!

Kids who participate in or attend the parade are invited to stop by Caffi Field Pitching Lanes (located on Cherry Street, SE, between the Vienna Community Center and the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department) to pick up a free Halloween goodie bag beginning at 7:15 p.m.

For more details, including parade routes and road closures, visit www.viennava.gov/halloween. 📍



Stream Restoration Underway at Southside Park

The health of Vienna’s wildlife and human habitats is getting a restorative boost from a significant stormwater improvement project near Ross Drive and Cottage Street. The goal of the Bear Branch stream restoration project at Southside Park is to address stream bank erosion that has had an impact on nearby residential properties, improve water quality, and reduce sediment buildup downstream. In addition to these environmental improvements, the plan includes beautification efforts that will improve Vienna’s natural wildlife habitat. This public works project is being funded by a state grant and is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. 📍



Town Council Approves 1% Increase in Meals Tax *Funds to be used for capital projects*

The Vienna Town Council voted to approve a one percent increase in the Town’s meals tax at its regular meeting on Aug. 25, 2025. The increase will bring the Town’s meals tax rate to 4%, which is equal to Fairfax County’s new meals tax, both of which take effect on Jan. 1, 2026. Only the Town’s meals tax will apply in the Town of Vienna. The County’s 4% meals tax will apply to businesses outside the Town of Vienna.

What the meals tax funds:

The meals tax is a local tax collected on prepared food and beverages purchased at restaurants, cafes, and similar establishments. For decades the Town’s 3% meals tax has been used to pay for infrastructure and capital projects, such as the new police station, street paving, sidewalk construction, traffic signal upgrades, park improvements and other infrastructure projects. These projects are prioritized in the Town’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which is reviewed and approved annually by the Town Council. To fund these projects, the Town issues general obligation bonds, and the meals tax is then used over a 15 to 20-year period to pay back those bonds. This ensures that critical, large-scale capital projects can move forward without using real estate tax revenue.

Next steps:

The Council has discussed using a portion of the meals tax to help fund construction of an aquatics and fitness center, and it was among the list of projects scheduled to be discussed at the Sept. 15 CIP work session. (For meeting materials and an audio recording of the work session, visit www.viennava.gov/meetings).

Once the CIP is finalized, the Town Council is scheduled to vote on it at its regular meeting on Oct. 27, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at Vienna Town Hall, 127 Center St., S., Vienna. The public is invited to attend the meeting in person, livestream it at www.viennava.gov/tvcn, or watch it live on our cable channel, Town of Vienna Community Network (Cox 27; Verizon 28). You can also email your feedback to the full council at Council@viennava.gov.

The bottom line:

The meals tax is a direct investment in Vienna’s future. Every dollar collected goes toward maintaining and improving the Town’s infrastructure and facilities, ensuring that the community continues to thrive for residents, businesses, and visitors. 📌



Town Commemorates Robinson Trust Legacy

Vienna now has more than six extra miles of sidewalks thanks to a multi-million-dollar legacy bequest from late Councilmember Maud Robinson. To commemorate the milestone, residents joined civic leaders and Mayor Linda Colbert unveiled a plaque on Friday, Aug. 15, 2025, recognizing Robinson’s public service and generous gift to the community. The plaque is permanently placed on the sidewalk next to 124 Courthouse Road, SW, which is where Robinson, and her husband and longtime mayor, Charlie Robinson, lived. Both were avid walkers and were committed to Vienna’s vision of creating a walkable community. 📌



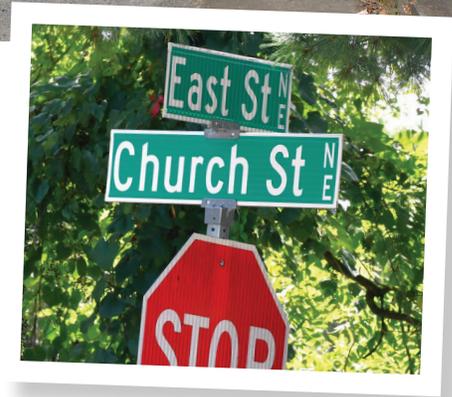
Town Council Cancels East Street Roundabout Project

When Vienna Public Works crews installed all-way stop signs at the T-intersection of Church and East streets, NE, last spring, it was expected to be a temporary measure to improve traffic and pedestrian safety until a roundabout could be designed and constructed. Since then, traffic studies have shown that the signs are working well. Motor vehicle speeds have been reduced without causing unsafe traffic backups, and pedestrians and cyclists have been able to navigate the intersection without incident since the signs were installed.

“There’s a low-crash history at that intersection, with only one pedestrian incident in recent years,” said Public Works Director Brad Baer as he provided the Town Council with an historical overview of the project. “The stop signs were installed after a pedestrian was injured crossing the street, and the signs are functioning well.”

No traffic incidents have been reported at the Church and East street intersection since the signs were installed. Because the stop signs have achieved what the roundabout was expected to achieve, the Vienna Town Council voted on Monday, Aug. 25 to cancel the roundabout project and save the remaining \$140,000 design budget and future construction budget for other traffic safety needs in town.

A roundabout at Church and East streets would have been the second in Vienna. The first was installed at the intersection of Park and Locust streets in 2016 and ultimately alleviated extreme traffic backups at rush hour. 📌



This Month's Topic on Deck: Holiday Happenings

From the Vienna Halloween Parade to Small Business Saturday to the Church Street Stroll, fall ushers in festive fun and merriment in the Town of Vienna, and you’re sure to notice a few changes in this season’s events. Join Town Manager Mercury Payton, Parks and Recreation Director Leslie Herman and Economic Development Director Nicole Toulouse for an update on things to come this holiday season.

“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.
TUESDAY, OCT. 14

LOCATION:
VIENNA VINTNER
320 MAPLE AVE. E.



Get to Know the New Town Clerk Five Minutes with Shelley Kozlowski

Does Vienna's new Town Clerk look familiar to you? It might be because she's worked here before as the Deputy Town Clerk.

Tell us a little bit about yourself?

I am a proud mother of two wonderful daughters and “Mimi” to three adorable granddaughters.

What attracted you to the job?

Prior to my position as the Vienna Deputy Clerk from 2019-2023, I was the Clerk of Council and acting Town Manager in Haymarket, Virginia. I was interested in working in a larger town, and I thought Vienna would be a perfect fit. I had a very positive experience serving under the previous clerk and enjoyed playing a role in the municipal process.

Life outside of government. What are your favorite things to do or enjoy?

Growing up in Northern Virginia, many of my friends and family are still in the area, and I enjoy spending time with them - especially my grandchildren. I love finding new restaurants, listening to local bands and spending time by the water.

What exciting initiatives do you want to accomplish as the town's new Town Clerk?

Improving public access to records and information through digital tools. Continuing to provide accurate record keeping. Actively serve as a channel between the elected officials, the public and departments to foster better communication and understanding.

Favorite spots in Vienna?

So, so many. Vienna has become my second hometown. I love all of the restaurants and live music at Jammin' Java. I also enjoy the many productions at the Vienna Community Center.



What was your first job?

Well, it depends how far back you would like me to go...my very first job in high school was the Easter Bunny at the mall.

One thing folks would be surprised to know about you.

I hosted a local cable television show in the late 1980's.

Your baseball walk-up song would be...

“I Will Survive,” by Gloria Gaynor. 🎵

Council Candidates Present Their Views at Forum



Curious about where this year's Vienna Town Council candidates stand on local issues? Find out at the upcoming candidates forum on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Vienna Police Department community Room, 215 Center St., S. Each candidate will be invited to make brief, opening remarks, followed by a structured question-and-answer period. Attendees will have the option of submitting questions in writing to a panel of forum moderators. Doors open at 7 p.m., and seating is limited.

The candidates forum is a local, election-year tradition presented by the North East Vienna Citizens Association (NEVCA). If you're unable to attend in person, consider attending from your living room by watching the live broadcast on the Town of Vienna Community Network (TVCN), Cox channel 27, Verizon channel 38. Residents can also view the live stream online: www.viennava.gov/TVCN. Check it out, learn about the candidates, and be prepared to vote on or before Election Day. 🎵

MEET the Town Council Candidates



Sandra Allen (Incumbent)

HOMETOWN:

I was born in Bolivia; now a naturalized U.S. citizen.

LIVED IN VIENNA SINCE:

1999

EDUCATION:

BS in Business Administration, Marymount University, Arlington, Virginia

PROFESSION/CAREER:

Full-time mother, caregiver, advocate and analyst and Councilmember.

PUBLIC SERVICE EXPERIENCE:

- Catholic Charity Feeding the Homeless, Thanksgiving food distribution volunteer
- Public/Private school volunteer leadership role i.e. Minority Achievement Program
- Hunter Mill District volunteer for the County's Budget Committee and Diversion First program
- Organized Neighborhood Watch Program leader
- Vienna Pedestrian Advisory Committee Volunteer

To learn more about Sandra Allen and her political platform, visit her Facebook page: www.facebook.com/@SandraAllen.464.700.

- Fairfax County Election Officer volunteer
- Initiated local UN Youth Empowerment and Women Empowerment in Schools program
- Prepared/Coordinated Latino Voters at Risk event
- Advocated for Sidewalks in our Neighborhood now installed on one side
- Vienna Town Council (2024-Present)

AWARDS/HONORS:

Mayor's Volunteer Recognition Award - I was recognized for my work in the community by Mayor Jane Seeman on April 9, 2002.

FAMILY:

My mother, my two adult children and my two dogs make my family unit.

HOBBIES/INTERESTS:

Jogging, biking, playing tennis, swimming, and drawing. I enjoy working with computers and solving issues that arise in our day-to-day activities.

FAVORITE SPOTS IN VIENNA:

I enjoy going to the Farmers Market in Vienna.

ONE THING PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU:

I am an independent candidate who left the Democratic Party.



Charles "Chuck" Anderson (Incumbent)

HOMETOWN:

Born in rural West Virginia; raised in Blissfield, Michigan.

LIVED IN VIENNA SINCE:

1997

EDUCATION:

BA, History and Political Science, Williams College, Williamstown MA/ MA, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE), Oxford University (Exeter College), England

CERTIFICATE:

Conflict Resolution for Political Leadership, George Mason University, 2020

PROFESSION/CAREER:

- Principal and Co-Founder, Capital Trade, Inc., 1992-2025
- Senior Vice President, ICF Consulting Associates, 1988-1992
- Director Coopers & Lybrand (now PWC), 1984-1988

PUBLIC SERVICE EXPERIENCE:

- Town of Vienna
 - Town Council, 2020 to present
 - Planning Commission, 2008-2015 (chair 2012-13)

To learn more about Chuck Anderson and his political platform, visit www.ChuckforVienna.com or www.facebook.com/@chuckforvienna or email him at chuckforvienna@gmail.com.

- Windover Heights Board of Review, 2006-2015
- Liberty Amendments Month leadership positions, 2021-present
- Vienna 250, Co-Chair, 2025
- US Department of Commerce, International Trade Analyst, 1982-1984
- US House of Representatives, Office of Legislative Information, 1981-1982

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

- Historic Vienna, Inc.
- NEVCA
- Malcom-Windover Heights Civic Association, Executive Committee
- Falls Church Presbyterian Church: elder, deacon, Welcome Table chef, Sunday School teacher, middle and high school
- Boy Scouts (Scouting USA): Den Leader, Assistant Scoutmaster
- Lecturer, Adventures in Learning, Shepherd's Center

AWARDS/HONORS:

- Historic Preservation Award (HVI)
- Lexology's (formerly Who's Who Legal)
 - "Global Elite Thought Leader" in the field of international trade economics consulting (multiple years)
- 2022 Client Choice Award, Trade and Customs Economists and Anti-dumping Consultants (North America)

FAMILY:

Married to Laura since 1988. We have two adult children and three cats.

HOBBIES/INTERESTS:

Cooking, reading, biking, swimming, gardening, travelling

FAVORITE SPOTS IN VIENNA:

W&OD Trail, the Maple Avenue Restaurant

ONE THING PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU:

I was one of six kids and the first to graduate from college.



Roy Baldwin (Incumbent)

HOMETOWN:

Vienna, Virginia

LIVED IN VIENNA SINCE:

1980

EDUCATION:

- BA in Political Science, University of Nebraska, 1973
- JD, George Washington University Law School, 1976

PROFESSION/CAREER:

Attorney, The Baldwin Law Firm, LLC, Oakton, Virginia.

PUBLIC SERVICE EXPERIENCE:

- Vienna Town Council 2024-Present
- Member, Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance
- Board of Architectural Review 2006-2023
- Town Business Liaison Committee 2003-2006

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

- Vienna Business Association
- Fairfax Bar Association
- Virginia State Bar Association
- American Bar Association

AWARDS/HONORS:

The one I'm proudest of is the ABA 9-11 volunteer award for

serving as the financial guardian of a boy who lost his mother on American Airlines Flight 77, for whom I secured almost \$2 million in grants.

FAMILY:

Married to Sharon, father to Nathaniel, & grandfather to Nicolas.

HOBBIES/INTERESTS:

Travel, yardwork, cheering Warhawk athletic teams, babysitting my grandson, and attending Holy Comforter Church.

FAVORITE SPOTS IN VIENNA:

Hawk & Griffin, Bear Branch, The Virginian, Pazzo Pomodoro, Vienna Inn, Bruster's for a waffle cone (reminds me of Rehoboth!), Waters Field, W&OD Bike Trail, Town

Green, Farmers' Market, and Holy Comforter's Seven Acre Wood.

ONE THING PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU:

In law school, I researched British Law Lords opinions from the 18th century to provide the legal basis for a lawsuit by Maryland taxpayers against Spiro Agnew to recover the graft money he collected as governor of that state. He ended up paying almost \$300k to settle.

To learn more about Roy Baldwin and his political platform, visit www.roybaldwin.net or email him at roy@roybaldwin.net.



Doug Francis

HOMETOWN:

Providence, Rhode Island

LIVED IN VIENNA SINCE:

1996

EDUCATION:

BA in History, Boston University

PROFESSION/CAREER:

Real Estate

PUBLIC SERVICE EXPERIENCE:

- Vice President, North East Vienna Citizens Association
- Moderator of NEVCA Candidates Forum
- President Vienna Commons Association 1999-2004
- Former U13 Head Coach, Vienna Lacrosse
- PTA Volunteer, Wolftrap Elementary

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

- Former Advisory Board Member of the Vienna Arts Society
- Former Member NVAR Professional Standards Committee

AWARDS/HONORS:

Mayor's Volunteer Recognition Award

FAMILY:

Married to Patty Renzetti, two kids, William and Claire

HOBBIES/INTERESTS:

Photography, tennis, gardening, National Parks, Smithsonian

FAVORITE SPOTS IN VIENNA:

Caffe Amouri, Italian Gourmet, Caboose, Northside Park, Town Green, Farmers' Market

ONE THING PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU:

Acting credits include Tony in "West Side Story," and LT Joe Cable in "South Pacific" in high school performances.



Important 2025 General Election Dates

Friday, Sept. 19:

Early Voting Begins - for locations, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/early-voting.

Friday, Oct. 24: Voter Registration Deadline

Friday, Oct. 24: Deadline to Request to Vote by Mail

Saturday, Nov. 1:

Last Day to Vote Early

Tuesday, Nov. 4: Election Day

For more election information, polling locations, voter eligibility and voter registration status, visit www.viennava.gov/vote or call the Fairfax County Office of Elections at 703-222-0776. 🗳️

To learn more about Doug Francis and his political platform, visit www.DougFrancis.org or check out his Facebook page "Doug Francis for Vienna Town Council."

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Town Council Candidates

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Dann Nash

HOMETOWN:

Herndon, Virginia

LIVED IN VIENNA SINCE:

2004

EDUCATION (SCHOOLS, LOCATIONS, DEGREES):

- BA in Architecture, Virginia Tech
- JD, University of Illinois, Chicago
- LLM, Real Estate, University of Illinois, Chicago

PROFESSION/CAREER:

Chief Operating Officer – Commercial Construction

PUBLIC SERVICE EXPERIENCE:

- Town of Vienna Board of Zoning of Appeals, 2020 - Present
- Chair, Town of Vienna Board of Zoning Appeals, 2022

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS (I.E. BOARDS/PUBLIC SERVICE GROUPS):

- Heavy Construction Contractors Association; President, 2012 – 2014; Executive Board 2007 – 2016
- Sidney R. Johnston Memorial Trust Scholarship, Treasurer, 2022 – Present
- Illinois State Bar Association; Virginia Bar Association; and District of Columbia Bar Association

FAMILY:

My wife, Diana, and I moved to Vienna just before our first child was born 21 years ago, and feel so fortunate to have been able to raise our three kids, and adopted niece here. We're huge Vienna fans.

HOBBIES OR THINGS YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME:

Cycling, going to as many live sporting events as I can, and spending time with family and friends.

FAVORITE SPOTS IN VIENNA:

W&OD Trail, Vienna Inn, and the many sports fields throughout the Town.

ONE THING PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU:

I was a latch-key kid.

To learn more about Dann Nash and his campaign platform, visit his Instagram page: www.instagram.com/nashfortowncouncil.



Jessica Ramakis
(Incumbent)

HOMETOWN:

Fremont, California

LIVED IN VIENNA SINCE:

2010

EDUCATION:

- BA in Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
- Master of Public Policy (MPP), UCLA

PROFESSION/CAREER:

Civil servant in education policy

PUBLIC SERVICE EXPERIENCE:

- Education policy professional for over 20 years
- Vienna Town Council 2024-Present
- Liberty Amendments Month Leadership Committee
- Vienna Planning Commission 2021-2023
- Former PTA board member for my children's school

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

- Vienna Rotary Club
- Historic Vienna, Inc.

FAMILY:

Married to Anthony Ramakis and mother to Henry and Vanessa

HOBBIES/INTERESTS:

Running with Moms Run this Town and pushing my pace at Orange Theory; Reading books I enjoy picking up at Bard's Alley; Cheering for my children and their teammates as they play softball, baseball, football, and basketball here in Vienna.

FAVORITE SPOTS IN VIENNA:

ViVa Vienna, the Farmers Market, Vienna Inn, the W&OD Trail, Waters and Caffi Field, Yeonas Park, and Trace the Zero Waste Store.

ONE THING PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU:

I meet up with friends twice a week early in the morning to run 3 miles and enjoy each other's company. We go year-round — in the daylight in the summer, and wearing headlamps in the dark in the winter months.

To learn more about Jessica Ramakis and her campaign platform, visit www.ramakiss.com; or visit her Facebook page: [Jessica Ramakis, Vienna Town Council](#); or email her at jessicaforvienna@gmail.com.



Howard Springsteen (Incumbent)

HOMETOWN:

Old Tappan, New Jersey

LIVED IN VIENNA SINCE:

1997

EDUCATION:

- BA, Fairleigh Dickinson University, NJ
- MPA, New York University

PROFESSION/CAREER:

Retired Fairfax County Government logistics manager

PUBLIC SERVICE EXPERIENCE:

- Procurement & Logistics professional 38 years
- Vienna Town Council, 2009-Present, Mayor pro-tem twice
- Transportation Safety Commission
- Hunter Mill Transportation Advisory Committee
- Madison High School Crew Club, Past President
- Vienna Volunteer Fire Department past leadership including President & Deputy Chief
- Troop 152 ASM
- Peace Corps Volunteer in Liberia

To learn more about Howard Springsteen and his campaign platform, visit his Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SpringsteenforVienna or email him at hjspringsteen1@verizon.net.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

- Community Helping Others
- Historic Vienna

AWARDS/HONORS:

- Rotary Club Service above Self Award
- Town of Vienna Outstanding Volunteer Award
- Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Volunteer Operational Officer of the Year-Twice
- Vienna Fire Department Leon Freeman Award for Outstanding Service
- Vienna Citizen of Year Fairfax Times 2007

FAMILY:

Married, with two adult children.

HOBBIES/INTERESTS:

Working around the house, helping neighbors, traveling, volunteering at Vienna fire station.

FAVORITE SPOTS IN VIENNA:

Town Green, W&OD Trail, Vienna Fire Station, Freeman House and Vienna Presbyterian Church

ONE THING PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU:

With the late Vienna Mayor Jane Seeman, I helped facilitate the Vienna Turkey Trot fundraising partnership between the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department and Madison High School Marching Band, now in its 22nd year.



Candidate for Mayor

Linda Jane Colbert (Incumbent running unopposed)

HOMETOWN:

Vienna, Virginia

LIVED IN VIENNA SINCE

1968

EDUCATION:

- BA in Mathematics, University of Virginia
- MA in Education, Virginia Tech

PROFESSION/CAREER:

- Retired math teacher, James Madison High School
- Current math and SAT tutor

PUBLIC SERVICE EXPERIENCE:

- Vienna Mayor 2020-Present
- Vienna Town Council 2014-2019
- Vienna Transportation Safety Commission 2012-2014
- Town Representative, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA)
- Chair, Planning Coordination and Advisory Committee to the NVTA
- Board Member, Madison High School Athletic Hall of Fame
- Tysons Transportation Service District Advisory Board

To learn more about Linda Colbert and her campaign platform, visit www.lindacolbertformayor.com.

- Greater Tysons Community Coalition
- Past Board Member, Fairfax Salvation Army
- M. Jane Seeman Memorial Committee
- Movers and Shakers
- Girl Scout Leader 13 years
- PTAs, Cunningham Park ES, Thoreau MS, Madison HS

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

- Virginia Municipal League
- Historic Vienna, Inc.
- Vienna Business Association
- Vienna Rotary Club
- Vienna Optimist Club
- Vienna Baseball Foundation

AWARDS/HONORS:

Eric Monday Foundation Take Down the Stigma Award; Vienna Volunteer Award

FAMILY:

37 years married to husband, Mike; adult daughters, Heather and Hannah, son-in-law Nick and dog, Hazel

HOBBIES/INTERESTS:

tennis, weightlifting, walking, reading, gardening, concerts, theater, art museums, travel

FAVORITE SPOTS IN VIENNA:

The Town Green, Church Street, the many good restaurants and shops, Vienna Woods Swim and Tennis Club, and Vienna Presbyterian Church, where I am a member.

ONE THING PEOPLE WOULD BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU:

I am a former Collegiate National Power Lifting Champion.

Updates from Vienna Parks & Recreation

Sign up to get Vienna Happenings

It's easy to stay up to date on events and other activities in town. It's all in Vienna Happenings e-newsletter, and signing up is easy. Visit www.viennava.gov/happenings to sign up and check your inbox on Thursdays for the latest issue of Vienna Happenings.

Chillin' on Church

Friday, Sept. 19

6:30-9:30 p.m.

Say so long to summer at the final Chillin' on Church block party of the year along historic Church Street and the Town Green. This family-friendly event features live music, food trucks, and beer and wine vendors. Admission is free. For details, visit www.viennava.gov/chillin.

Thanks to our title sponsor: LUKA Design and Build.

Halloween on the Green

Saturday, Oct. 11

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Vienna Town Green

A spooky craft, games, prizes, live entertainment, goodies to eat and more fall fun make for a festive family outing on the Town Green. Everyone is sure to have a howling good time! This is a free event. If inclement weather is in the forecast, call 703-255-7842 for event status.



Vienna Theatre Company Presents Under a Cowboy Moon

Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 17-18, 24-25, 31 and Nov. 18 p.m.

Sundays Oct. 26 and Nov. 22 p.m.

There ain't much in Spitwhistle, TX, except some cowboys, some longnecks, and the Saddle Horn Bar. Needless to say, this West Texas town isn't much of a tourist destination. Desperate to lure visitors to their dying town, the residents have organized an annual cowboy poetry contest, where cowboys can compete for the chance to win \$500 and "to be high-thought-of...for a change." But when a TV crew from PBS arrives to film the contest as part of a documentary on cowboy poetry, the prospect of appearing on national TV and winning a \$5,000 purse ups the stakes. All tickets are \$16 and are available for purchase online: www.viennava.gov/register.



Bowman House Pottery Show and Sale

Saturday, Nov. 8

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Bowman House Arts and Craft Center
211 Center Street S.**

Don't miss out on great gifts for the holiday season! Students will have handmade pottery available for sale. Now accepting credit cards, cash or checks.

Call for Entries-Town Green Holiday Display Sept. 20-Oct. 20

Apply to bring your creativity and holiday spirit to life on the Freeman Store lawn this winter. The Town is accepting applications for the 2025 Community Holiday Displays through Oct. 20. Three displays that meet design guidelines will be randomly selected to transform the public space into a festive season of sparkle and light from Dec. 2 to Jan. 10. For more information about the selection process, design guidelines, and how to apply, visit www.viennava.gov/display.



Controlling Invasive Species

BY LEA GIOVANNI, CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Native vs. non-native plants; what's the difference? Like an invading army, non-native "invasive plants" take over and degrade natural ecosystems that are vital to life. They displace native plants by outcompeting them for soil nutrients, water, and light. They replace food sources that wildlife has evolved to rely on with exotic plants that are inedible, toxic, or otherwise harmful. They draw pollinators away from life-supporting native plants and push rare species closer to extinction.

Some invasive species spread rapidly and can quickly transform natural plant communities into landscapes dominated by single species with little ecological value. Once established, invasives require enormous amounts of time, labor, and money to control and are often virtually impossible to eliminate.

Vienna is not immune to this threat! Local volunteers have spent countless hours removing invasive species from Vienna and Fairfax County parks. Many of these species have spread to the parks from adjoining residential properties. It is much easier to stop the spread of invasive species when they first appear, than to try to control the damage once they have become fully established. Here's what you can do to help stem the invasive tide:

- Identify and remove the invasives in your yard. Commonly seen invasive species in our area include Cinnamon Vine, English Ivy, Garlic Mustard, Honey Suckle (multiple species), Japanese Barberry, Japanese Knotwood, Japanese Stiltgrass, Lesser Celandine, Multiflora Rose, Norway Maple, Oriental Bittersweet, Porcelain-berry, Wine Berry and Wisteria.
- Verify whether a plant in your yard is native to our area by using the free Seek app: <https://bit.ly/plantseek>, or by checking the Non-Native Invasive ID and Control Guide on the Fairfax County Park Authority website: <https://bit.ly/InvasiveGuide>.

- Volunteer to help remove invasive plants from parks and other public lands.

Each exotic, invasive plant has a native alternative that will benefit, rather than detract from the natural ecosystem. So, plant natives! Look for native plant stickers at local nurseries or ask the nursery staff to help guide you. 🌱



Get a Tree for Free!

Head to the Vienna Farmers Market on Saturday, Oct. 18 at the Vienna Community Center? Be sure to look for the Town's annual Native Tree Giveaway sponsored by the Conservation and Sustainability Commission (CSC). 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. 🌳



Open for business

Town of Vienna business licenses were issued in July to:

CHEF TAN DMV, INC.
Restaurant/Carryout
132 Branch Road, SE

JOCELYN CAMBIER
Teacher-Cooking Lessons
1124 Fairway Drive, NE

DEEP CURRENT INSIGHTS, LLC
Home-Based Marketing
706 Kingsley Road, SW

SILVA & SON
Fast Casual Cafe
448 Maple Ave., E

HAIR BY ADC
Hair Stylist
262 Cedar Lane, SE, #123N

WISENESIS HEALING ARTS
Acupuncture/Wellness Consultant
501 Church St., NE, #102

Vienna businesses with staying power

Congratulations to the following businesses celebrating milestone anniversaries in September and October:

35 YEARS
FINN'S POOL & SPA SERVICE, INC.

30 YEARS
ALLEN S. GARAI, DDS, PC
JOSE D. MARTINEZ POSHI, INC.
THE ITALIAN GOURMENT

15 YEARS
ALEX BOROWSKY, CPA
BIKES@VIENNA
LANDSCAPES BY PEEL, LLC
KATHARINE THOMAS
TAMMY'S FASHIONS, LLC
THE PURE PASTY COMPANY, LLC
VIENNA PERIODONTICS, PC

10 YEARS
GENIUSKLOUD, LLC
IT AVAILABILITY, LLC
KORFF CONSULTING, LLC
MARJAN CARRY-OUT AND CATERING
ZEE INVESTMENTS, LLC

5 YEARS
BANFIELD PET HOSPITAL #5247
COGITARE, LLC
ORAWAN KONGTAT
SIMPLY SOCIAL
SUMIRE LOCALIZATION, LLC

Word From Juan

Empowering Women Through Self-Defense



Four times a year, the Town of Vienna Police Department hosts a women's self-defense program called RAD, short for Rape Aggression Defense. This nationally recognized course is designed to empower, educate, and equip women with the tools to protect themselves in uncertain situations.

This hands-on, practical course benefits all women, and it is especially valuable for young women preparing to go off to college. Starting a new chapter away from home can be exciting but also presents unique safety challenges. RAD training offers techniques and awareness strategies to help students stay safe on campus, out with friends, or while traveling.

Our certified instructors focus on real-world, practical self-defense skills, including situational awareness, assertive communication, and physical techniques. No prior experience or fitness level is necessary, and women who live in the Town of Vienna and the greater Vienna community are encouraged to register.

Classes are held from 6:45 to 10 p.m. on scheduled nights to accommodate busy schedules. For more details and to register, visit www.viennava.gov/PDPrograms and click on the Personal Safety for Women tab.

Let's work together to build a stronger, safer community—one confident woman at a time. 🇺🇸



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.



Picture it!

Tyson's Corner Center, 1976. Vienna residents are among those that flock to this new concept in shopping just outside of town. For decades, anchor stores Hecht's and Woodward & Lothrop (a.k.a. "Woodies") were popular destinations for everything from clothing to housewares. Skirts were a bit longer then. So were sideburns. Tyson's Corner Center opened in 1968 and was one of the first fully enclosed, climate-controlled shopping malls in the country. 📌

Vienna at 1775: A Social and Economic History

What was the area we now call Vienna like on the eve of the War for Independence? A distinguished panel of historians and archivists will provide answers at a panel discussion on "Vienna at 1775" at the Community Center Auditorium on Saturday October 25, at 2 p.m. Learn more about the people who lived in our area at the time of the nation's birth. Discover what they did, what they believed and other aspects of life here such as the local economy, religion and the courts. This panel discussion, sponsored by the Vienna250, will set the stage for a deeper understanding of the events leading up to the Declaration of Independence, and Vienna's role in that remarkable era. 📌



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, Oct 3, from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Virginian, 169 Glyndon St., SE. Stop by, enjoy some coffee or breakfast, and share your thoughts.

Mayor's Walk: Join Mayor Colbert for a chat and stroll through the Town on the third Friday of most months. The next two walks are on Fridays, Sept. 19 and Oct. 17. Meet in front of Town Hall at 9:30 a.m.

Office Hours: The mayor is available to meet in her office weekdays, by appointment. To make an appointment, email owen.mccarty@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. 📌



HAPPENINGS around town

American Legion Breakfast Buffet Fundraiser

**Sundays, Sept. 21 and Oct. 20
8 a.m.-12 p.m.**

Celebrate fall at the American Legion Auxiliary's Post 180 Breakfast Buffet. Enjoy Joe's custom omelets, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, breakfast potatoes, sausage gravy, biscuits, blueberry pancakes, fruit cocktail and dessert. Adults \$12, children younger than 12, \$5. Proceeds support Girls State and local youth activities. For more information, call 703-409-3564. American Legion Post 180 is located at 330 Center St., N., Vienna, Va.

CROP Walk

Sunday, Oct. 5 • 12:30 p.m.



Join the 2025 Annual Vienna CROP Walk to support local and international hunger relief efforts. The Walk is approximately 2 ¾ miles and takes about an hour. A shorter walk is also available. The Walk begins at Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 Maple Avenue, Vienna, at 12:45 p.m., with onsite registration starting at 12:30 p.m. For more information, contact Lisa Hechtman at lhechtman@gmail.com, or

visit <https://bit.ly/CROPwalk>. There is no fee to walk, but walkers are encouraged to donate or to find sponsors who will make donations to support their efforts.

Book Cellar Birthday Party

**Saturday, Oct. 11
10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

The Freeman Store & Museum's used book cellar turns 9 this year, and you're invited to the party. There'll be a children's craft, fall photo op, huge variety of books and special offers. This annual event is family friendly and will be held rain or shine on the grounds of Freeman Store & Museum, 131 Church St., NE, Vienna. In addition to bargain deals on used books, the Freeman store offers Vienna and Virginia-specific items and other gift ideas for purchase. The store is open 12-4 p.m., Wednesday-Sunday.

Fire Department Open House

**Saturday, Oct. 11
10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

In conjunction with National Fire Prevention Week, the community is invited to the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Open House, 400 Center St., S, Vienna, Va. This year's fire prevention campaign focuses on the importance of preventing lithium-ion battery fires in your home, in addition to having working smoke alarms, fire extinguishers and an escape plan. The open house will also include family friendly activities, a live-fire presentation, food and more.

Lions Club Dining for Dollars Fundraiser

**Tuesday, Oct. 14
11:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.**

Enjoy a delicious meal and support a worthy cause at the same time 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 support Fairfax/Vienna area 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.

Using Artificial Intelligence in Schools

**Tuesday, Oct. 28
7 p.m.**

The Vienna Area Branch of AAUW invites all to a discussion of "How Artificial Intelligence Is Being Used in Our Schools" by Gautam Sethi, chief information and technology officer, Fairfax County Public Schools. The program will be held at 7 p.m. in the Vienna Community Center Auditorium, 120 Cherry St., NW.

Ayr Hill Garden Club Annual Fall Bulb Sale

Order online through October 31

The sale features a variety of unusual and new bulbs including American natives. Order online at <https://ahgcbulbsale.square.site/>.

Golden Girls' 50'S Win Gold at National Senior Games

Members of the Northern Virginia Golden Girls 50's softball tournament team are proof positive that age is just a number. The Vienna-based league and tournament players recently won the gold medal at the National Senior Games in Des Moines, Iowa. After battling through pool play the team delivered bracket-busting performances including the championship game where they pounded out 23 hits to defeat the Salisbury, NC Silver Spirits in a 16-7 title-clinching win. Congratulations Vienna Golden Girls!





Fall Golden Girls Registration now Open

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join, and all skill levels are welcome. We play most Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings at nearby Southside Park from May-July and September-October. Fall league registration is open at a discounted rate! For more information, please call visit our web site www.goldengirls.org.

CHO Bike Drive

Oct. 1- Nov. 27

The Committee for Helping Others (CHO) is collecting bikes to distribute to families in need in our community. We are especially interested in bikes for teenagers and adults. Drop off your bikes in the driveways of 317 Church St., NE, or 218 Elmar Drive, SE.



CHO Christmas Store-Volunteers and Toy Donations Needed

The Committee for Helping Others (CHO) is also gearing up to help 150 or more local families for the 2025 season, and you can help. Volunteer to help set up or escort shoppers on December 5 & 6 at Vienna Presbyterian Church; donate new toys for kids up to 8 years; donate gift cards for food and gifts for older children. You can donate early or bring donations the morning of Dec. 5. For more information, contact CHO at 703-281-7614, box #1.

Mayor's Pet of the Month

Meet Gus. Delivered in a Christmas box tied with a giant red bow, Gus made his grand entrance on Dec. 25, 2019, and the Georgeadis family has been wrapped around his paw ever since. Originally thought to be a future 60-pound lab mix, Gus decided he was done growing at 20 pounds, and a DNA test confirmed that this small pup is 48% chihuahua. He might not be the pup the Georgeadis family expected, but loyal, smart and cuddly, he is the perfect pet companion.

Congratulations, Gus! You are 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**
sandra.allen@viennava.gov
- Chuck Anderson**
chuck.anderson@viennava.gov
- Roy Baldwin**
roy.baldwin@viennava.gov
- Ray Brill**
ray.brill@viennava.gov
- Jessica Ramakis**
jessica.ramakis@viennava.gov
- Howard J. Springsteen**
hspringsteen@viennava.gov
- Full Council**
Council@viennava.gov

**TOWN HALL
MAIN PHONE
703-255-6300
PUBLIC
INFORMATION
OFFICE
703-255-6330**

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 Nicole Toulouse 703-255-6347
- Finance Director and Treasurer Steven Barlow 703-255-5759
- 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 November issue is Oct. 10.**

**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
215 Center St. S
Vienna, VA

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.

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Merrifield, VA
Permit No. 36

VIENNA VOICE

September TOWN CALENDAR

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 19 | Chillin' on Church (Church Street) • 6:30-9:30 p.m. |
| 24 | Planning Commission • 7:30 p.m. |
| 25 | Tree Advocacy Committee (VCC) • 6:30 p.m. |
| 25 | Conservation and Sustainability Commission (VCC) • 7:30 p.m. |

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| 29 | Town Council Meeting • 7:30 p.m. |
| 30 | Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee • 7 p.m. |
| 30 | Transportation Safety Commission • 8 p.m. |

October TOWN CALENDAR

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| 4 | Oktoberfest (Church Street) • 11 a.m. -7 p.m. |
| 6 | Town Council Meeting • 7:30 p.m. |
| 7 | Windover Heights Board of Review • 7:30 p.m. |
| 8 | Planning Commission • 7:30 p.m. |
| 9 | Town Business Liaison Committee • 7 p.m. |
| 11 | Halloween on the Green (VTG) • 10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. |
| 14 | On Deck with Mercury • 6 p.m. |
| 15 | Board of Zoning Appeals • 7:30 p.m. |
| 16 | Board of Architectural Review • 7:30 p.m. |
| 17 | Vienna Theatre Company Production (VCC) • 8 p.m. |
| 18 | Tree Seedling Giveaway (VCC) • 8 a.m. -12 p.m. |
| 18 | NOVA Model Railroaders Open House • 1-5 p.m. |

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| 18 | Vienna Theatre Company Production (VCC) • 8 p.m. |
| 20 | Town Council Work Session (VPD) • 7 p.m. |
| 23 | Tree Advocacy Committee (VCC) • 6:30 p.m. |
| 23 | Conservation and Sustainability Commission (VCC) • 7:30 p.m. |
| 24 | Vienna Theatre Company Production (VCC) • 8 p.m. |
| 25 | Vienna Theatre Company Production (VCC) • 8 p.m. |
| 26 | Vienna Theatre Company Production (VCC) • 2 p.m. |
| 27 | Town Council Meeting • 7:30 p.m. |
| 28 | Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee • 7 p.m. |
| 28 | Transportation Safety Commission • 8 p.m. |
| 29 | Halloween Parade (Maple Avenue) • 7 p.m. |
| 31 | Vienna Theatre Company Production (VCC) • 8 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.
NPY, Northside Property Yard, 600 Mill St., NE • VCC, Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE
VPD, Vienna Police Department Community Room, 215 Center St. S • VTG, Town Green, 144 Maple Ave., E