

VIENNA Voice

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



COVID-19 impacts are far-reaching, hit close to home

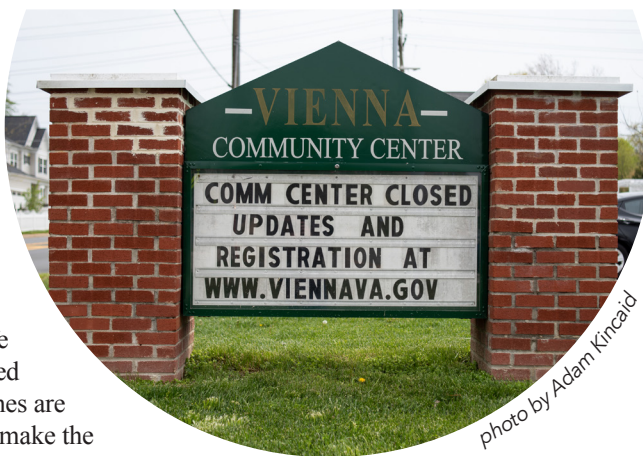
The loss of life around the globe has been tragic. The fear and uncertainty are unnerving. The loss of access to favorite restaurants, shops, routines, and people is unsettling. The financial toll is as yet unclear, but it will almost certainly be unprecedented. And yet...life goes on, services are delivered in modified ways, new routines are formed, people find ways to make the best of tough situations – and even to make things a little better for those most in need.

This issue of *Vienna Voice* covers a variety of ways that the coronavirus pandemic has impacted the Town of Vienna and its residents, from financial impacts on the Town and its businesses to the shuttering of community events, from effects on the Town's upcoming election to individuals helping others who have lost the most or are giving their most through the crisis.

The Town of Vienna government continues to operate and provide essential and other services, though primarily through electronic means or phone. All Town events through June 30, including ViVa Vienna, have been canceled. The Optimist Club hopes to open the Vienna Farmers Market June 13.

Until June 10 or until Gov. Ralph Northam rescinds his stay-at-home order, the following Town of Vienna closings, cancellations, and limitations are in place:

- The Vienna Community Center is closed, and all associated programming, rentals, classes, and activities are canceled.



Social-distancing strategies to be in place as residents cast ballots in Town elections

As this newsletter was being printed, it still was uncertain whether the Town's mayoral and Council elections would go on as scheduled on May 5 or if they would be postponed. On April 8, Gov. Ralph Northam requested that the General Assembly consider postponing 53 local May elections around the state to November 3. The General Assembly was scheduled to convene April 22, but it was unclear what action – if any – might be taken. Check viennava.gov as well as the Town's social media sites for updated information about the election date.

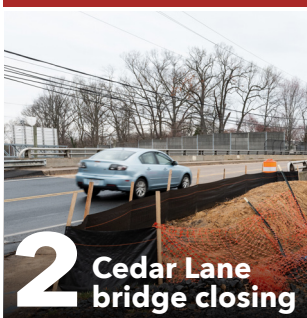
Presuming that the Town's elections move forward as scheduled, registered Town voters may cast their ballots, if they haven't already voted via absentee ballot, from 6 am-7 pm Tuesday, May 5, at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE. Town of Vienna residents will be selecting a new mayor from among three current Councilmembers running for that office and three new Councilmembers from a slate of seven newcomers. Mayor Laurie DiRocco is not running for re-election.

In an On Deck with Mercury video interview with Town Manager Mercury Payton last month, Fairfax County's General Registrar and Director of Elections Gary Scott said that voters should anticipate a much slower-than-usual voting process as check-in stations will be limited and only one person at a time allowed into the polling area to vote.

"We're encouraging people to be patient," Scott says. "This is a trying time for all of us.... This has never been done before, and we're trying to make sure everyone has the opportunity to

See **Impacts** page 2

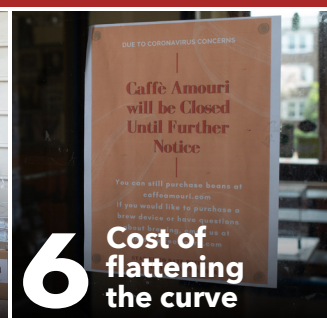
IN THIS ISSUE



2 Cedar Lane bridge closing



4 Look for the helpers



6 Cost of flattening the curve

See **Elections** page 3

Bridge to close for six months beginning around May 15

I-66/Cedar Lane bridge project moving forward

The Transform 66 Outside the Beltway team is moving forward with plans to completely shut down and rebuild over a six-month period the Cedar Lane bridge. The project is necessary to accommodate the addition of express lanes to and widening of I-66. The bridge will close around May 15.

This more aggressive approach – as opposed to a partial closure and two-year rebuild period – takes advantage of planned Metro Orange Line shutdowns for construction activity over Metrorail tracks, reduces the number of nights during which neighbors may experience noise from demolition activities, and lessens the time that lane shifts on I-66 will be required.

The posted detour will route drivers to Gallows Road using either Cottage Street or Hilltop Road and Lee Highway. Pedestrians and bicyclists will use another marked detour, utilizing sidewalks and shared-use paths.

Fairfax Connector routes 462 and 467 will be adjusted and service expanded beginning May 9. **Service on these routes will be free** throughout duration of the bridge closure. More information is available at fairfaxconnector.com.

“The full bridge closure,” says Nancy Smith, public relations manager with FAM Construction, “means that we will be able to rebuild as quickly as possible and reduce the length of time that the project impacts people’s lives. This will be a short-term inconvenience compared to the longer bridge construction cycle.”

Nighttime construction activities, necessary so that multiple lanes of I-66 can be closed, will generate noise and other impacts.



photo by Adam Kincaid

Mitigation measures, such as hauling demolished concrete during daytime hours, processing the concrete off-site, and directing lighting away from residences, will be utilized.

The new bridge, expected to open in late November, will include a 6.5-foot sidewalk on the west side and 17.5-foot shared-use path on the east side. Smith says that the overall I-66 project is on schedule for new express lanes to open in December 2022.

More information about the Cedar Lane bridge project, including flyers printed in Spanish, is available at outside.transform66.org/CedarLane. Project updates also will be posted to the webpage. 📢

Impacts from page 1

- Town Hall and other facilities are open to the public by appointment only.
- Town playgrounds, basketball and tennis courts, and the Vienna Dog Park are closed, and field permits are canceled. Town parks remained open as this newsletter went to press, but park bathrooms are closed.

On March 31, Town Council adopted a continuity of government ordinance that permits it to meet electronically to deal with issues related to the coronavirus emergency or which require action in order to ensure continuity of the Town’s business. Most meetings for other advisory boards and commissions are canceled through June 10, though the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and Board of Architectural Review will meet electronically in May. Instructions for public “attendance” at electronic meetings or participation in public hearings are being posted to the Town’s website.

Updates related to measures taken in regard to the coronavirus pandemic are likely and will be posted to viennava.gov/coronavirus. Businesses can find additional information and resources at viennava.gov/covidbizresources. 📢

Vienna Farmers Market plans to open June 13

8 am-noon Saturdays
Vienna Community Center





Pandemic puts pressure on Town budget

The specifics on the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic on the Town of Vienna's finances aren't clear yet, but it certainly isn't going to be pretty.

Like jurisdictions throughout the state, Vienna is facing revenue shortages and some increased expenses due to the health crisis. Revenue shortfalls that impact the Town's operational budget stem principally from cancellation of parks and recreation programming, but also are anticipated in business licenses and state and sales taxes. The Town's debt fund, used to pay back bonds issued for capital projects, will fall far short of expectations due to an anticipated drop in meals tax revenue.

The Town will use \$200,000-\$500,000 from its reserve fund to cover anticipated shortfalls in the fiscal year 2020 budget, which ends June 30. The Town's policy is to maintain at least 15% of the current budget in reserve funds; this expenditure will bring the current percentage down to about 16%, part of which may be considered for use in fiscal year 2021 if critically necessary.

Depending on how long the emergency continues or "business as usual" is impacted, the roughly estimated shortfall in the Town's fiscal year 2021 budget could range from slightly less than \$1 million to more than \$2.3 million.

As Council prepares to consider adoption of the FY21 budget at its June 15 meeting, staff adjustments made to the original proposed budget of \$38.7 million include:

- moving \$462,000 in capital-related costs from the general fund to the capital project fund
- deferring annual salary increases for Town employees
- savings on parks and recreation contractors and supplies
- cutting any new programs for FY21
- cutting travel and training expenses
- cutting overtime
- considering other potential cuts as necessary to balance the budget

These adjustments reduce the Town's proposed FY21 general fund, one of four

funds that comprise its operating budget, by about \$1.4 million, putting next year's general fund at 2.6% less than the FY20 general fund. Additional expenditure reductions will be made throughout the upcoming year as necessary.

The proposed budget maintains the Town's real estate tax rate at 22.5 cents per \$100 assessed value; this will mark the sixth year that the Town's property tax rate has remained the same. At its April 13 meeting, Town Council adopted a resolution pushing the due date on the first installment of 2020 real estate taxes by one month to August 28.

Another area of significant impact is the Town's debt service fund, which is used to pay back bonds that fund capital projects, such as the new police station, water and sewer infrastructure improvements, and sidewalk and road improvements. Revenues, which come from a 3% meals tax collected through restaurants, could be down 25-50% (\$770,000-\$1.5 million or more) in the coming fiscal year.

Revenue shortfalls will be met with existing cash reserves in the debt service fund, which have been built up over previous years in anticipation of the Town's large, \$34.5 million bond issuance in February. If necessary, the \$3.1 million premium the Town received can be used to pay interest, and the Town can curtail issuance of bonds in future years. Typically Vienna issues bonds every two years to fund capital projects.

"The Town of Vienna is not alone," says Finance Director Marion Serfass. "Across the state, local jurisdictions are all in the same boat, trying to figure out how large the shortfalls will be and how best to address them. No one saw this coming."

As this story went to press, the Town learned that it will receive more than \$2 million in federal CARES Act funding funneled to the state and Fairfax County, which can be used to pay for necessary expenditures – but not replace any revenues lost – due to COVID-19. 📌

Elections from page 1

exercise their franchise without putting themselves or others at risk and to do it as quickly and as efficiently as possible under the circumstances.

"The mindset is that regardless of the circumstances," Scott adds, "elections and democracy go on. We just may have to make some changes to the way we do it."

Scott noted that election officers will be wearing masks and gloves and that social-distancing separation will be enforced for people waiting outside the polling area to vote. He added that voters who choose to wear a face covering will not be asked to remove it.

He recommends that voters review the sample Town of Vienna ballot available at fairfaxcounty.gov/elections and decide before they arrive at the polling location how they plan to vote.

He does not, however, recommend the use of hand sanitizer before casting a ballot nor that voters bring their own pens. Hand sanitizer as well as gel ink can soak into ballots and make them more difficult for the machines to read. Sanitized pens will be available for voter use. Oh, and bring your photo ID as well.

Absentee ballots, Scott says, will be counted in the central absentee precinct on Election Day, and absentee results will be available at the same time as unofficial poll results election night. Unofficial election results will be posted to viennava.gov as soon as they're available as well as on the Town's social media platforms. 📌



On deck Town Manager Mercury Payton, left, talks about the Town's elections with General Registrar Gary Scott.

photo by Adam Kincaid

Look for the helpers

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

- Mr. (Fred) Rogers

One of the very best things about the Vienna community is that when the going gets tough, you don't have to look far to find the helpers. As the coronavirus pandemic has unleashed both a health and financial crisis, Vienna helpers have readily stepped up to assist those working on the frontlines as well as those who are in need.

This story covers just a few of those who have donned capes, provided meals, joined together, and taken on new challenges in order to help others. Just take a look around the Vienna community - you will always find people who are helping.

Nine-year-old pays it back

Louise Archer fourth-grader

Matteo Lambert ran more than 100 miles in 31 races across 15 states last year on his way to raising more than \$65,000 for HopeCam "so [that] kids with cancer aren't so lonely." Through HopeCam, the money Lambert raised connected 70 sick children digitally with their classmates.

"In every race," says the precocious 9-year-old in a recent TEDx Tysons talk, "I borrowed the cancer-fighting superpowers of a HopeCam kid and honored their courage by wearing a cape."

Lambert, who runs just over a 7-minute mile, was aided along his heroic

journey by several local Vienna businesses. When he heard that these businesses are now facing financially difficult times due to the health crisis, he wanted to pay them back. He and his dad, Brandon, organized a GoFundMe account to raise \$250 for each of eight businesses that had previously supported their efforts.

"We realized that they were going through a tough time," Lambert says. "We decided we should help them because they supported us."

He ended up surpassing his goal, raising \$3,350 and helping out 10 Vienna businesses.

Donning a cloth medical mask and utilizing other health precautions, Lambert and his dad dropped off checks to each of the businesses on Good Friday.

Lambert had planned to run 202 miles in races this year to support his new nonprofit Off the Charts Club, which works to empower and support children with cancer. Those racing plans have been suspended due to the health crisis, but the Lamberts are using their extra time

to personalize capes in honor of kids battling cancer. Find more information at offthechartsclub.org.

As Lambert says in his TEDx Talk: "There are no age or size requirements to make a difference. Anyone can help others."

Feeding the hungry and the heroic

Practically overnight in mid-March, Vienna's Purple Onion went from a full-throttle catering service feeding guests at 167 weddings last year and employing 48 full-time and 200 part-time employees to turning off all of its burners and closing its doors temporarily.

Since then, owner Margot Jones has created Hotel Pans for Hospitality to help feed Vienna restaurant workers who have been furloughed. In the restaurant world, hotel pans are the metal containers from which food is served.

"It started the day that we shut down temporarily," Jones says. "We have all these employees and all this food. We gave away as much food as they could take."

Following that first week, Purple Onion, with donations from its Sysco distributor as well, has given food away each Friday to a growing number of furloughed employees from some of Vienna's favorite restaurants.

"I just didn't want to be on the sidelines and not doing anything," Jones says. "I felt like I needed to be giving back. I didn't know what to do other than give food away. As a caterer, you know, you want to feed people."

The Vienna Rotary Club and Salvation Army have teamed together to feed people too.

When more than 500 cars lined up in early April to pick up food at the Salvation Army donation center on West Ox Road, the Vienna Rotary shifted into high gear, reaching out to club members and other Rotarians in the region as well as the Vienna community to request donations of nonperishable goods for the center.

Rotary Club members pick up donations from front porches each Wednesday morning, says Rotarian organizer Sheila Brennan. Rotary members fill up a pick-up truck - or two or three - with donated items that are delivered to the Salvation Army.

If you're interested in donating, email sbrennanrotary@gmail.com or melody.moran@uss.salvationarmy.org.

Melody Moran, assistant corps officer with the Fairfax Salvation Army Office, says that the groups also have been feeding about 150 George Mason University international students who are stuck on campus. The students do not have access to a kitchen and are in need of snack items and foods that can be cooked in a microwave.





Jordan Rice with JDA Custom Homes and Beth Eachus, president of the Madison High School PTSA, have joined forces with other community organizations, including Belong! and several local churches, to provide assistance to supplement the Fairfax County Public Schools' efforts to provide grab-and-go breakfasts and lunches for students who rely on free or reduced-price school meals.

"What the school system is doing is great," says Rice, "but what about dinner and weekends? That leaves 11 meals a week unaccounted for."

As the schools, individuals, and churches realized they all had a common goal, the Vienna Student Food Initiative (VSFI) was created. Using funds raised from the community, the effort provides grocery cards each week to help vulnerable students and their families have access to food during the health crisis. In the first week of April, VSFI distributed 178 gift cards, valued at either \$25 or \$50 each, to families through the schools. Donations may be made at belongvienna.org/covid-19-how-you-can-help.

"VSFI is supporting more families with each passing week," says Jordan, "as more businesses are forced to close and jobs that were uncertain are being eliminated."

Eachus notes that students who have in the past been supported through the Madison Food Pantry "have seen really positive academic results. They're doing better in school and staying in school longer. If we can take away anxiety related to meeting base needs, then students are able to accomplish more."

In addition to those providing food, several Vienna individuals and groups are delivering food.

At the end of March, Chris Ham with Stonegate Remodeling began delivering breakfast, lunch, and dinner to a different family each day for 30 days. "Since then, it's grown into a thing where a bunch of people are helping," he says. "It feels really good to be doing something to help."

Vienna's Social Burger is delivering too – to healthcare workers and first-responders. In March, the restaurant created an online donation program through which community members could purchase meals for nurses at Inova. The 200 meals sold out in under five hours, so the local burger shop increased its capacity to 900 meals and delivered burgers to first-responders as well. Many of the meals were delivered in bags decorated with "thank you" messages created by elementary students.

"We've always had online ordering as an option," says Vienna Social Burger franchise owner Denise Lee, "but it was scary switching to online only at first. But witnessing Vienna residents'

support of us, working with other restaurants, and providing a service to people who need meals has been amazing. It's like there's this almost unseen network of businesses and residents working together in this eerily empty landscape in Town. It makes me so proud to be a part of this community."

Nancy Green with the Vienna Inn agrees. "So many of our customers, some of whom are usually at our restaurant every day, want to help in some way," she says. "We have one individual who volunteers daily to deliver meals to a specific list of families who are not able to go out."

Resident Lydia Russo has found a unique way to help local restaurants gain visibility and share meals with those in need. Russo is administrator of the Vienna VA Foodies Facebook Group, which has quickly developed a following of more than 3,000.

Russo says: "It's really cool when someone gets a meal delivered and then posts a picture of it on our group, writes a review, and then someone says: 'Hey, I never knew they were around. That looks really good!' We're all about encouraging people to share positive messaging about our restaurants."

Recently The Vienna VA Foodies group coordinated donations of more than 100 masks for Vienna restaurant workers.

Vienna residents show medical workers the love - and the PPE

Horrified by news about the shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) for medical workers in New York City, Colleen Nielsen discovered the findthemasks.com website and sent a dozen N95 masks from her family's workbench to Elmhurst Hospital in Queens. A couple of weeks later, the website included listings of healthcare providers in all 50 states who were in need of PPE.

So Nielsen organized a supply drive in her Vienna Hills neighborhood through which neighbors and others put together 192 masks, including N95 and surgical masks, and 600 latex and latex-free gloves that were donated to Inova Fairfax Hospital.

A Town resident who is an emergency room nurse at Inova Fairfax reported that she was received "like Santa Claus" when she took in 100 surgical masks from the supply drive.

Nielsen has started a Facebook group called Find the Masks, Vienna through which residents can continue to donate N95, surgical, and sewn masks as well as latex and



See *Helpers* page 8

Town exploring ways to support local businesses

The steep cost of flattening the curve

Nearly half of all small businesses in the metropolitan region – and that’s some 70,000 businesses, including the more than 1,800 in the Town of Vienna – are at “immediate or near-term risk” due to measures put in place to limit the spread of COVID-19, according to the Brookings Institution as reported by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments in mid-April.

The majority of pandemic-induced economic contraction thus far, reports George Mason University’s Stephen S. Fuller Institute, is being felt largely by the leisure, hospitality, retail, and consumer services sectors.

None of that distressing data is “news” to the Town of Vienna’s small businesses. Many Vienna businesses have temporarily closed their doors or have seen sharp declines in revenue as the Town – and the nation – abide by stay-at-home orders designed to flatten the curve of the coronavirus’s reach.

“So many nonessential businesses have closed their doors for the foreseeable future,” says Vienna Business Association (VBA) Executive Director Peggy James, “while others have chosen to drastically alter their services, hours, menus, and promotions to keep some amount of revenue coming in the door.”

“There is a lot of uneasiness about how long the health crisis will be continuing,” adds Economic Development Manager Natalie Monkou. “Vienna is a very tight-knit community and very supportive of the businesses here, but Vienna alone cannot sustain the business community for an unknown amount of time.”

The Town is aware of the financial pain, concern, and frustration being experienced by small business owners. Monkou and Mayor Laurie DiRocco have had conversations – individually and through multi-party phone-based “listening sessions” – with Town business owners.

“We have been mobilizing as quickly as we can to make sure that we’re helping and supporting the business community throughout this crisis,” Monkou says.

Two of the most effective roles the Town can play on behalf of businesses is as a connector and advocate for the business community.

Monkou has established a resource webpage at viennava.gov/covidbizresources. The page provides businesses with frequently updated, important information about resources for federal, state, and

private loans and grants; changes to rules and deadlines that are designed to support businesses during the crisis; and a variety of webinars and other avenues to access business expertise.

“The Town’s role is to be a connector,” Monkou says. “We’re helping businesses be aware of the resources that are available and connecting them to those resources.”

Monkou suggests that businesses continue to do their homework and research the various aid programs through both government and private avenues. It’s important, she says, that businesses connect on a local level as well as a national level.

“This is the time to find your tribe,” she says. “Consider joining organizations that are specific to your industry. These groups provide advocacy and work to impact what’s happening at the state and national levels. They can speak to the unique challenges of the industry during the health crisis and provide a ton of resources designed specifically for that industry.”

The Town, too, can – and does – act as an advocate for businesses.

Monkou says that she’s heard a lot of feedback from business owners that the Town isn’t doing enough to support the business community and that business owners are really interested in grants, not loans.

“Often government doesn’t move as quickly as people would like,” Monkou acknowledges. “It can be frustrating, but it also functions as a protective guard so that impulsive decisions aren’t made.”

As for grant programs, she says that those are currently “few and far between.” The Town of Vienna and Fairfax County don’t have grant programs. However, Fairfax County just launched a \$2.5 million Small Business COVID-19 Recovery microloan fund. (See story on the next page for more details.)

See *Local businesses* page 7



photos by Adam Kincaid



Local businesses from page 6

Vienna Town Council also has taken action to support businesses and property owners, including extending the due date for the first installment of real estate taxes by one month to August 28 and making temporary changes to meals tax collection. For a period of 60 days, through June 13, the Town will waive interest and penalties on late payments (for April and May meals taxes) and increase the on-time payment discount from 3% to 10%.

The reality is that economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic may take much longer than the health recovery period, Monkou says, and not all businesses are going to survive.

“We have a lot of businesses that have demonstrated innovation in this crisis,” she says. “When we do come out of this, I hope that it has a positive effect in that businesses are stronger and more creative and have found new ways to connect with consumers and other businesses that they hadn’t utilized before.”

For those businesses that have remained open, says James, “the amount of creativity, ingenuity, and tenacity demonstrated has been staggering.” As an example of business ingenuity, James points to the partnership between Bards Alley and Bikes @ Vienna to create Book Pedalers, a bike delivery service for purchased books.

“I think that we all have seen the power of collaboration and the importance of sharing and executing ideas that help bring us together even as we must be physically distant,” Monkou says. “As businesses navigate this crisis, that’s more important now than ever.”

The Town and VBA will continue to listen to businesses’ needs and work to find creative, impactful ways to support the business community, which is so vital to the Town’s overall economic health. 📌

County microloan program supports small business recovery

The \$2.5 million Fairfax County Small Business COVID-19 Recovery Fund provides eligible businesses with loans up to \$20,000 at 0% interest, which can be used to offset some of the impacts of the coronavirus shutdown. Town of Vienna businesses are eligible, and applications for the program are being accepted through the Community Business Partnership website at cbponline.org/financing/fairfax-microloan-program/.

Counseling is a crucial component of the program and is designed to help ensure that small businesses access the best program for their situation.

Principal repaid to this microloan program will be deposited into a revolving loan fund, which will continue to deliver growth capital to small businesses for the recovery period and beyond.

Organizations with fewer than 50 employees comprise 94% of Fairfax County businesses. 📌

How has the health crisis impacted your business? What would help?

TAKE THE SURVEY

The Town of Vienna is partnering with the Town Business Liaison Committee and Vienna Business Association to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on the business community.

The survey at viennava.gov/covidbizsurvey may be a tad lengthy, but the information provided will assist the Town in understanding what kind of relief is most crucial.

The survey should be completed by employers – business owners or senior managers – for businesses of all sizes.

The deadline to complete the survey is May 15.

Supporting local businesses

In response to the coronavirus health crisis, the Town has undertaken several measures in support of local businesses.

- Created and continuously updated viennava.gov/covidbizresources webpage.
- Waived fees and applications for temporary banners and signs.
- Conducting an online survey with local businesses to obtain information about impacts and needs.
- Created five-minute parking zones along Church Street to support businesses providing pick-up services.
- Provided information about regional and national webinars that offer information and expertise on a variety of topics to business stakeholders.
- Amended the Town’s meals tax provisions for a 60-day period, April 14-June 13. Temporary changes include waiving penalty and interest fees for late payments and increasing the discount, from 3% to 10%, for on-time payments. Changes apply to meals tax payments for April and May.
- Delayed due date for the first real estate tax installment by one month. The first installment is now due for all property owners – commercial and residential – August 28.
- Suspended disconnections, penalties, and interest payments on overdue water and sewer bills.
- Hosted listening sessions with restaurant and property owners.
- Hosted a webinar for small business employers to discuss the Paycheck Protection Program and Small Business Administration disaster relief loans.
- Advocated at the county level for financial resources for businesses.
- Provided information about how to file claims under the federal CARES Act.

Helpers from page 5

latex-free gloves. Non-Facebook users may contact Nielsen at nielsen.colleen@gmail.com about donations.

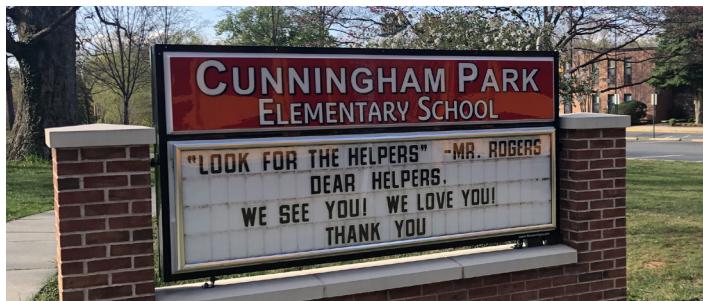
"Many of us have these supplies in our basements, garages, medicine cabinets, and emergency kits," says Nielsen.

Arlington resident and Green Hedges School parent Jason Torchinsky is providing PPE of another sort to those on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic. Borrowing Green Hedges' two 3D printers and working with the school's IT director, Torchinsky, whose daughter, Sarah, is a sixth-grader at Green Hedges, is part of Marymount University's initiative to supply healthcare workers on the Eastern seaboard with face cover holders.

"My daughter has been at the school for a few years now," Torchinsky says, "and they have been really accommodating about helping me get the printers and figuring out how to use them. Both the IT director and my daughter's math teacher have helped me with a handful of technical issues that have come up.

"It's amazing that so many people are stepping up to help out with such an important effort," he adds. "I think it is important in this time for everyone to do what they can, and with Green Hedges' help, this is something my whole family has been able to do to assist in the fight against COVID-19."

We see you, Vienna helpers. Thank you. 🍷



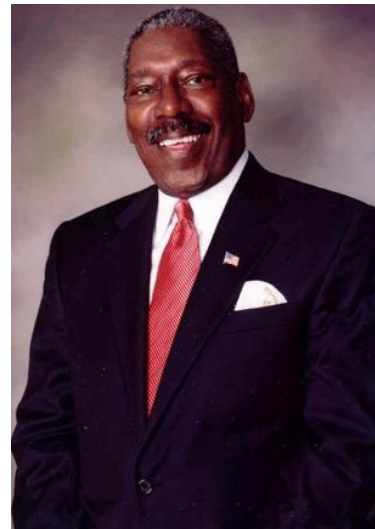
Goodbye to former Councilmember George Lovelace

George Earl Lovelace, who served on Town Council from 1982-96 and 2003-10, passed away March 22 in his home in Locust Grove, Virginia, at the age of 83.

Lovelace was known in Vienna as a great friend, neighbor, and community leader. He was elected in 1996 to the Virginia House of Delegates, becoming the first African-American to represent Northern Virginia since Reconstruction.

Lovelace served in Vietnam, Europe, and Turkey as well as at the Pentagon while in the U.S. Army Signal Corps; he retired after 20 years as a lieutenant colonel. He also was a court-appointed special advocate for neglected and abused children.

A March 25 *InsideNOVA* article quotes his family as writing: "George's presence was always felt in his bright smile, booming voice, warm laughter, strong handshake, sharp mind, and his impeccable style. ... George lived each day believing in his responsibility to leave every place better than he found it." 🍷



CONTACT Vienna

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

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

VIENNA TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor Laurie A. DiRocco
ldirocco@viennava.gov
703-255-6310

Linda Jane Colbert
linda.colbert@viennava.gov

Pasha M. Majdi
pasha.majdi@viennava.gov

Douglas Noble
douglas.noble@viennava.gov

Nisha Patel
nisha.patel@viennava.gov

Steve Potter
steve.potter@viennava.gov

Howard J. Springsteen
hspringsteen@viennava.gov

TOWN STAFF

Town Manager	Mercury T. Payton	703-255-6371
Town Attorney	Steven D. Briglia	703-255-6305
Town Clerk	Melanie J. Clark	703-255-6304
Communications & Marketing Manager	Lynne Coan	703-255-6330
Finance Director	Marion Serfass	703-255-6322
Human Resources Director	Maggie Kain	703-255-6351
Information Technology Director	Tony Mull	703-255-6364
Parks & Recreation Director	Leslie Herman	703-255-6356
Planning & Zoning Director	Cindy Petkac	703-255-6340
Police Chief	Col. James Morris	703-255-6390
Public Works Director	Michael Gallagher	703-255-6380

Send community news and high-resolution photographs to lynne.coan@viennava.gov. All material provided is subject to editorial review and revision and will be used as space allows.
Deadline for the June issue is May 11.



Art imitates life in local author's Vienna-based mystery

by Communications Specialist Adam Kincaid

Editor's note: Though they have the same surname, the author of this story and the author that is the subject of this story are not related.

Young adult and mystery author Harper Kincaid loves the Town of Vienna so much that not only has she branded it her adopted home since moving here in 2006, she also has inked it as the hometown of murder mystery protagonist Quinn Victoria Cane in her latest novel, *To Kill a Mocking Girl*.

Kincaid's latest work – she's penned four other published books – follows Cane as she returns to Vienna to start a new life as a book binder at her favorite bookstore and café. Cane threads her way through trials and tribulations surrounding her ex-boyfriend and a high school nemesis and, of course, murder.

Kincaid, who has had nomadic moving habits throughout her life, decided to plant roots in Vienna when her husband's company moved close by more than 10 years ago. "I researched a lot of cities and towns in NOVA," explains Kincaid, adding that she ultimately chose Vienna because it "kept scoring high in every category: great schools, lots of available family activities, strong civic pride, and a cute-as-can-be historic district."

In an effort to bring visibility to and share her passion for Vienna's charm, Kincaid pays homage to two of her favorite local entities in her latest thriller: Bards Alley and the Freeman Store.

Bards Alley inspires the fictionalized Prose and Scones in Kincaid's story. "I used to work at Bards Alley, and I just love that lil' bookstore" says Kincaid. "In fact, this mystery series was inspired by the store." Upon returning to Vienna, Cane works at the bookstore as the mystery unravels.

In another nod to the Vienna community, Historic Church Street and its civic nature are featured in Kincaid's novel. "The Freeman Store

is another favorite of mine," she says. "It's a Vienna institution, and I wanted to share its awesomeness with people not lucky enough to live in or near Vienna."

Kincaid has several other favorite Vienna spots and teases that additional local businesses and events will appear in *Mocking Girl's* sequel.

The author reserves her deepest fondness for the Town's residents.

"What really made me fall in love with this Town is its people," she says. "There are a bunch of colorful characters here – and I mean that as a compliment. The people of Vienna are whip-smart and compassionate, opinionated and thoughtful. I feel lucky to be part of this community."

To Kill a Mocking Girl hits Kindle May 12 and bookstores June 9. Kincaid earned her master's degrees in gender/American history from San Francisco State University and clinical/macro social work from Catholic University of America. When not writing, the author says that she adores listening to lo-fi, indie, complaint rock played on vinyl; theater; well-informed optimism; happy endings; and making those close to her laugh 'til they snort. 📖



Now more than ever, Vienna residents need to show 'the love' to local businesses

by Deepa Chakrapani and Friderike Butler, Town Business Liaison Committee

Here's an understatement for you: The humanitarian and economic crises resulting from the impact of COVID-19 have hit businesses across the nation hard. The Town of Vienna prides itself on being a community that is home to small, individually owned businesses as well as larger chains and franchises. All of these businesses are an important part of our socio-economic fabric and make Vienna what it is: nurturing, unique, and exuberant.

Over the years, our local businesses have generously underwritten numerous Town and school events, and business owners and employees have often volunteered their time and services in support of Town events.

Now many businesses in our community are struggling, even fighting for their survival. Businesses in hospitality (such as restaurants, caterers, event rentals) and personal services (nail salons, hair care, massage therapists) have been hit the hardest.

It's time for us, Vienna residents, to do our part and offer support where it is needed. Please consider – and do – the following:

- Buy locally first. Before you decide to shop with an online provider, please check to see if there is a local business you can support. Most businesses offer delivery and curbside options.
- Buy services in advance now for use later.

- Refer local businesses to your family and friends living in the area.
- Write a referral for your favorite local businesses on "review" websites.
- Buy services, such as meals, and donate them to local first-responders or families in need.

If you own or manage a Town of Vienna business, consider selling services in advance for use in the summer and fall, building coalitions with related businesses to offer group discounts, and refocusing your services to support first-responders and teachers through donations from residents.

Our community is the core of how we live and who we are. Let's all do our bit. 📖

Money may not grow on trees, but trees can save money

by Christina Caplan, Conservation and Sustainability Commission

The Town of Vienna has been recognized as a Tree City USA for 19 years. That may seem hard to believe when you walk past lot after lot that has been clear cut for new, large homes. Recent data indicates that Falls Church loses an average of 5.3 mature trees with each new home built. That number is likely similar in Vienna. (After the current public health emergency ends, Town arborists plan to conduct a tree inventory to identify the number, species, and ages of trees on residential lots.)

The benefits – environmental and economic – of preserving and planting trees on your property cannot be overstated:

- **Reduced energy costs** Trees offer direct shading and air cooling in summer; they slow winds and reduce home heat loss in winter. Shade trees can reduce a home's air conditioning costs by 20-25%. The net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equal to 10 room-sized air conditioners operating 20 hours a day!
- **Increased property values** Healthy, mature trees enhance curb appeal, increase privacy, and provide erosion control, which adds an average of 10 percent to a property's value. Landscaping with trees can increase property values as much as 20 percent.

- **Improved air quality** Trees produce oxygen and absorb air pollutants such as ozone, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter. Trees remove carbon dioxide and reduce energy production needs and emissions.
- **Reduced stormwater runoff** Trees absorb stormwater, reduce erosion, and prevent pollution from entering waterways and impairing fish, wildlife, and drinking water sources.

You can help ensure a lush tree canopy in Vienna by preserving mature trees in good health on your property. If you're building a new home, work with your builder to design your home in a way that retains existing trees and maximizes tree placement to reduce energy costs.

Everyone can plant a tree at home now – a hopeful project during quarantine.

To calculate benefits of planting trees on your property, use i-Tree Design on the Fairfax County website: fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/trees/benefits-planting-trees. For more fascinating statistics on the value of trees, see the Arbor Day Foundation website: arborday.org/trees/benefits.cfm.

Town Council Actions

The following items represent recent Town Council actions, but do not constitute official meeting minutes. The most recent approved Town Council minutes, agendas, and meeting videos are available online at viennava.gov.

March 31

- Adopted a continuity of government ordinance that permits the Town to modify meeting and public participation methods to comply with the governor's executive order to limit public gatherings and practice social distancing during the declared public health emergency related to coronavirus.

April 13

Meeting held utilizing continuity of government ordinance and electronic means for public participation.

- Held a public hearing on the fiscal year 2020-21 proposed budget. Council left the public hearing open for written/mailed comments through

April 17 and directed the town clerk to advertise a notice of intent to adopt the fiscal year 2020-21 budget at its May 11 meeting, following consideration of the real estate tax rate.

- Held a public hearing on proposed fiscal year 2020-21 water and sewer rates. Council left the public hearing open for written/mailed comments through April 17 and directed the town clerk to advertise a notice of intent to adopt fiscal year 2020-21 water and sewer rates and fees at its May 11 meeting.
- Approved transferring payment of \$73,879 for paving projects with Arthur Construction from the general fund to capital project fund.
- Approved \$5,300 in additional spending with Potomac Truck Center for sanitation truck repairs.
- Approved a resolution extending the due date for the first installment of Town of Vienna real estate taxes to August 28.

- Approved an emergency ordinance to amend the Town's meals tax provisions. Temporary changes include waiving penalty and interest fees for late payment of meals taxes and increasing the on-time payment discount from 3% to 10% for a period of 60 days, April 14-June 13.
- Readopted for a period of up to six months the continuity of government ordinance originally approved by Council at its March 31 meeting. Council also directed the town clerk to advertise a notice of adoption of the ordinance.
- Extended the public improvement bond for the Onondio Cove subdivision to October 30, 2020.

20
years ago...

The May 2000 Town of Vienna newsletter notes that the Vienna Community Band was celebrating 25 years of service to the Town. Formed in 1975 to assist in celebration of the U.S. bicentennial, the band – then and now – offers free public concerts and participates in holiday celebrations.



HAPPENINGS around town

The coronavirus has shut down much of the world, but not the **Vienna Art Society's Kindness Project**. In fact, this is a perfect time to show your appreciation for friends, neighbors, merchants, delivery people, grocery store clerks, first-responders, doctors, nurses, and so many others who are helping us weather the health crisis. Submit descriptions of acts of kindness you've experienced – coronavirus-related or not – by September 30. Brief write-ups, poems, drawings, and paintings submitted will be displayed as part of the Vienna Arts Society's Kindness Project exhibit at the Vienna Community Center October 24 and 25. Entries may be submitted via ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Belong! Is one of the community organizations involved in providing grocery gift cards to families in need during the coronavirus pandemic. The multipurpose nonprofit provides youth and family services, including after-school and summer youth programs, job readiness training, adult literacy, immigration information sessions, and parenting workshops. For information about Belong! or to volunteer, visit belongvienna.org.

Harmonia School of Music and Art is offering online private lessons as well as summer camps. Camps include Musical Theatre & Creative Arts for ages 5-14 and Junior Music Camp for ages 4-6 as

well as performance experiences in the school's Main Stage production of *Mamma Mia!* and a Singing with Shakespeare workshop. Register at harmoniaschool.org. For more information, call 703-938-7301.

Happenings Around Town notices are printed as a community service, and items are included as space allows. Submit information by the 10th of the month preceding publication. Submissions may be edited. Listings do not constitute an endorsement of content nor necessarily reflect any policy or position of the Town of Vienna, Town Council, or employees.

Vienna businesses with staying power

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



60 YEARS
Vienna Inn

20 YEARS
Fortunate Catering

10 YEARS
ACN Wellness
MASA Design Group
PSI Fund I
Vienna Wellness

5 YEARS
Bolduc Dental
Chloe's Beauty Studio
James Madison Shell
Jenna Duffy
Knowledge Technologies

Laura Goyer Photography
Markley & Associates
Sport Clips Haircuts of Vienna
Vienna Car Wash
Walter Guarino
WarCollar Industries

25 YEARS
Alexandra Kaghan
My GentleLase Electrolysis and Skin Care

15 YEARS
Conway Halsall

Open for business

Town of Vienna business licenses were issued in March to:



Alma Beauty Academy
beauty school
512 Maple Avenue W
703-333-2197

Alma Color Salon
beauty salon
512 Maple Avenue W
703-333-2197

Bear Branch Tavern
restaurant
133 Maple Avenue E
571-669-3668

Pizzaroni
carryout restaurant
235 Maple Avenue E
703-391-0000

Steven Karp
anesthesia service
116 Cherry Circle SW
703-304-5975

30

years ago...

In the May 1990 Town newsletter, the Vienna Centennial Committee invited Town residents to "bring a picnic lunch or buy hot dogs, watermelon, and soft drinks in the park, and spend an afternoon filled with the kind of fun that families enjoyed when Vienna became a town back in 1890." Festivities at Nottoway Park included music from barbershop quartets; a pie-eating contest, corn cob throw, and other games; and wine tasting.

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

703-938-4900 voice
703-255-5730 TDD
Non-emergency
703-255-6366 voice
703-255-5730 TDD
Community Center
703-255-6360 voice

TTY Virginia Relay 711
120 Cherry St. SE
Vienna, VA 22180
Vienna Town Hall
703-255-6300 voice
TTY Virginia Relay 711

127 Center Street South
Vienna, VA 22180-5179
Monday-Friday • 8 am-4:30 pm

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

**VIENNA
VOICE**

May TOWN CALENDAR

5 Town Election Day (VCC) • 6 am-7 pm

11 Town Council Meeting • 8 pm

13 Planning Commission • 7:30 pm

18 Town Council Work Session • 7:30 pm

20 Board of Zoning Appeals/Public Hearing • 7 pm

21 Board of Architectural Review • 7:30 pm

25 Holiday: Town Offices Closed/Regular Waste Collection

27 Planning Commission • 7:30 pm

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings take place at Town Hall, 127 Center Street S. Meeting schedule subject to change; check **viennava.gov** for updates.