

VIENNA VOICE

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Region and Town inching toward gradual reopening, new normal

While most of the rest of the state entered on May 15 phase one of Forward Virginia, Gov. Ralph Northam's data-driven, measured approach to reopening the commonwealth's businesses, the Northern Virginia region, including the Town of Vienna, hit the pause button. By order of the governor, at the request of regional leaders, the NOVA region remained at "phase zero" and left in effect strict business and social-distancing restrictions, which had been in place since March, through at least May 29.

As this newsletter is arriving in mailboxes, it's possible that the region may have been deemed ready to move to phase one, depending on whether or not the region meets health metrics necessary to move forward.

When health metrics improve and the region does enter phase one of the Forward Virginia plan, many regional nonessential businesses will be allowed to reopen or offer additional services, following strict health and social-distancing guidelines. The governor's office has issued phased guidelines for all business sectors, including best practices for physical distancing, cleaning and disinfection, and enhanced workplace safety as well as guidelines for specific business sectors. Businesses and others can find information at virginia.gov/coronavirus/forwardvirginia/.

Town reopening is beginning to take shape

In mid-May, Town Manager Mercury Payton created a reopening team, led by Police Chief Jim Morris, to create a plan that will eventually allow Town facilities to reopen safely to the public. The Town first plans to bring most employees back to Town Hall and other facilities – many employees currently are teleworking – possibly sometime in June.

Vienna General District Court will resume hearing and administrating cases at Town Hall June 1. The Town is working with the court to modify procedures to accommodate as much as possible social-distancing requirements and public health concerns. People attending court at Town Hall are strongly encouraged to wear face coverings.

The staff reopening task force will recommend strategies, protocols, and equipment that will address social-distancing,



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Pandemic as well as reopening bring anything but 'business as usual'

A majority of those who responded to a recent Town of Vienna survey regarding coronavirus impacts on businesses said that they had experienced a loss of more than 70% in revenue over the previous 30 days – for 35%, the revenue loss was more than 90%.

That data is pretty startling. But imagine if you were one of those businesses.

"It has been scary, an emotional rollercoaster," says Blanca Munguia, owner of the Heartfelt Craft Shop on Church Street, which has been closed since March 14. If her sewing and craft workshop for children were a COVID-19 patient, Munguia says that it would be on a ventilator.

"I've been through the whole five stages of grief," says Renee Gilanshah, owner of Treatwell Spa on Maple Avenue, which has been closed since March 24, when the governor ordered personal grooming businesses to shut their doors. "It makes me sad that this could be the end. It wouldn't be that long goodbye that you'd have if you were retiring or planning ahead to close your business. It was literally overnight."

Jim Brooke of Brooke Rental on Mill Street says "hands down" this is the most difficult business challenge his 44-year-old company, which remains open, has faced. "I'm very worried," he says. "Worried about the future of the business – and my family's future."

"I've had a lot of sleepless nights," says Epione Kappatos, owner of the Virginian Restaurant, which has been open since 1965. "We just don't know what the future holds.... We're just hanging in there, as they say."

Each of the businesses interviewed has taken advantage of some form of small business loan, either the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) or the Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan.

On May 8, Kappatos was able to reopen her restaurant, which had been closed for seven weeks, after receiving a second-round PPP loan. "For the next two months, we have funds to pay our [nine

part-time] employees and part of the rent. When that ends, we don't know...."

Despite the overwhelming challenges small businesses are currently facing, Vienna small businesses appear to be looking to the future with optimism and a willingness to creatively implement changes that will make their customers feel comfortable returning to their shops and availing of their services.

As this newsletter went to press, most of the state of Virginia had entered on May 15 phase one of Forward Virginia, a gradual reopening plan put forward by Gov. Ralph Northam. Because the Northern Virginia region had not met health metrics that indicated the region was ready to safely begin easing restrictions, the governor delayed reopening in Northern Virginia until at least May 29.

Regardless of the exact date when Northern Virginia begins to reopen businesses and loosen restrictions, it's clear that it won't be "business as usual."

"Reopening will be a challenge," Kappatos says. "I don't think we'll be going back to normal anytime soon. A lot of changes will need to be made in the way that we serve and act. We can't have people waiting in line and packed in here like we used to."

Treatwell's Gilanshah says that she's not eager to rush back in, nor are her clients. Beauty business professionals are trying to source personal protective equipment so that "clients feel comfortable and so that we can be comfortable." In addition, Gilanshah is trying to figure out how closely she can book appointments with the need for more time to sanitize

and disinfect between customers. The reality is that she won't be able to see as many clients in a day, and personal protective equipment will be an additional expense.

"I can go through the different scenarios in my mind, but we just don't know how it's going to work out until we open our doors," Gilanshah says. "Will clients be comfortable in the new reality?" And with profitability likely down, will business owners like Gilanshah be able to make it?

Munguia whose classes for children are full at eight individuals has considered how to create more space in classes and more time in between classes.

"It's the greatest job in the world to work with children," she says. "Some days I wake up more optimistic than others, thinking 'Yes, everyone will have masks.'" On less optimistic days, she wonders if parents will put their children at risk for a sewing class. "Safety is most important, and even if it's sad, I will not risk my family and others," she says.

With the cancellation of all previously booked events through June and many into the fall, Brooke Rental, which employs about 20 people, has

worked to pivot from mainly renting tents and party supplies to its original focus on renting tools and equipment. The company also has rented some of its tents to government agencies and corporations who are using them as health screening areas before people enter buildings. "The challenge is that the party goods business is going to come back slower than other parts of the



Jim Brooke



Elaine Kappatos

economy,” Brooke says. “I don’t think it’s going to put us out of business, but it really depends on how quickly people can feel confident that they can have social gatherings.”

In a May 13 *Vienna Road to Recovery* webinar hosted by the Town’s economic development office and Vienna Business Association, Karen Kerrigan, president and CEO of the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council, encouraged businesses, as they look to reopen, to communicate to customers through signage and social media or email the measures being undertaken to ensure their safety.

“Customers need to know that you’ve really thought about this and you’re doing it smart and you’re doing it safe,” she

says of reopening. “Customers want to feel safe and know that you are following social distancing best practices and rules related to cleaning.

“It won’t be easy,” she adds, as again small businesses will be on the frontline of “reopening in a way that brings confidence to consumers.”

“I think a lot of us feel the weight on our shoulders,” says Gilanshah. “We have to do this right.”



Blanca Munguia



Fairfax County offers \$25 million grant program for small businesses

The Fairfax RISE COVID-19 Small Business and Nonprofit Relief Grant Fund will provide relief to small businesses and nonprofits adversely affected by coronavirus shutdowns to assist them with remaining in business. Funding for the program is provided through federal CARES Act money received by the county. Grants received will not have to be repaid.



The application process is expected to begin in early June. More information is available at fairfaxcounty.gov/economic-success/fairfaxrise.

A minimum of 30% of grant allocations will be made to women-owned, minority-owned, and veteran-owned businesses.

Applicants must:

- have one more locations, including the principal place of business, in Fairfax County (Town of Vienna businesses are included)
- have 1-50 full-time-equivalent employees across all locations
- have been in operation for more than one year
- have a valid Business, Professional, Occupational License (nonprofits are exempted from this requirement).

photos by Adam Kincaid

Reopening from page 1

cleaning and disinfecting, and other safety precautions that will allow the Town to serve residents and customers in person in the safest manner possible, likely at the earliest sometime in July.

As he considers the appropriate time to call back employees, Payton has at least two priorities in mind, ensuring employee health and well-being and coordinating with other jurisdictions in the Northern Virginia region.

"It is of the highest importance to me," he says, "to make sure that we avoid any circumstances in which we have our employees at risk because we moved too quickly. I would rather take the time to gradually bring employees back to the workplace and learn how we'll be working going forward in this new pandemic environment. Once we satisfactorily understand how to make the workplace safe and productive by giving our employees time to get accustomed to new ways of doing business, which means incorporating social distancing and all CDC protocols, then we will be ready to bring residents and customers back into Town facilities.

"I realize that this is a slower approach than what many may expect," Payton adds, "however, I would rather move thoughtfully and not rush the process."

Payton who is actively involved in regional conversations on a weekly – almost daily – basis says that local leaders also are trying "as a region to move in unison as much as possible." He notes, "Just as the virus knows no jurisdictional boundaries, many residents move around the Northern Virginia region without much consideration to which jurisdiction they're in. People may shop

in one jurisdiction, work in another, live in another jurisdiction, and have relatives in yet another." Regional leaders believe it will reduce resident confusion if they can coordinate their reopening statuses as much as possible.

In the meantime...additional Town cancellations and virtual opportunities

At this time, all special events and parks and recreation classes, activities, camps, and other programming have been canceled through June. In addition, **the Town's Fourth of July fireworks and Sprinklers & Sparklers events have been canceled.** The Town is offering residents Fourth of July "in a box." See more information, page 10. The Parks and Recreation Department also has created a Virtual Vienna Community Center that provides video programming and a variety of interactive links for children, teens, mature adults – and anyone looking for a little fun or stress relief. Check out the fun at viennava.gov/virtualcommunitycenter.

Beginning July 6, the parks and recreation department *hopes* to open the community center for no- and low-touch programming. As social-distancing restrictions ease and the threat of COVID-19 diminishes, the department hopes to phase in its regular and more high-touch programming. It is likely, though, that all special events through August will be canceled. Please check the Town's online calendar for updates.

Town Council meetings and meetings of some other boards and commissions are taking place as scheduled under the continuity of government ordinance that was passed March 31. 🗳

No more plain drain

Vienna Public Arts Commission student member Myles Temple spent a day in the middle of May painting a colorful, whimsical design on the storm drain at the bend in the road near the community center on Cherry Street. He had a little help from his friends, Anneliese Bilidas and Gavin Kneff – all three students are rising seniors at James Madison High School. Paint for the project was donated by Vienna Paint. 🗳

THANK YOU

Vienna Paint Benjamin Moore and
Madison art students
for donation of materials and time.

–Vienna Public Art Commission





Vienna has a new mayor and three new Councilmembers

Linda Colbert is the Town of Vienna's new mayor. She will take office July 1. Colbert was elected mayor in the Town's May 19 election, which also brought three new members to Town Council: Ed Somers, Ray Brill, and Chuck Anderson were elected to Council from a slate of seven candidates.

In an unprecedented election – in that the Town's election date was delayed two weeks by order of the governor due to concerns related to the coronavirus health crisis and the extraordinary number of absentee ballots that were cast – the voter total was 4,195, including both absentee ballots requested (not necessarily returned and counted) and in-person votes, or 36.5% of active registered voters.



Ed Somers



Ray Brill



Chuck Anderson



Official election results for mayor, as posted by the Fairfax County Office of Elections, were:

Linda Colbert	1,562
Pasha Majdi	1,180
Howard Springsteen	870

Springsteen will continue to serve on Town Council as his term has not expired.

Each voter could cast a vote for three Councilmembers. Official vote totals for Council positions were:

Chuck Anderson	1,430
Roy Baldwin	1,263
Ray Brill	1,486
Andrea Dahl	1,344
David Patariu	1,221
Ed Somers	1,562
Chris Wright	1,273

Celebrate Vienna's 130th birthday with the Distance Matters 130K Challenge

Help the Town celebrate its 130th birthday by participating in a month-long 130K challenge during the month of July. This challenge is motivating, fun, and, most importantly, totally doable! Individuals can walk, run, hike, or bike on their own – including on a treadmill in their home – for a cumulative distance of 80.8 miles (that's 130 kilometers).

Registration is \$10 and available at viennava.gov/registration using activity #610703-A1. All participants will receive a log to track their progress and a completion medal.

Sign up, lace up, and get ready to get moving! 🏃



The final chapter in Laurie DiRocco's tenure as mayor

by Communications Specialist Adam Kincaid

There's no "official handbook" for being mayor of the Town of Vienna. But if Laurie DiRocco, who decided not to run for re-election this year after serving as mayor since 2014, were to write one for her successor, she'd have a few bullets of advice and lessons learned:

- volunteerism is key
- focus on collaboration and check politics at the door
- create strong relationships with localities and organizations in our region and state.

"It was former Mayor Jane Seeman, whom I knew from church, who told me what to do when I first wanted to, in some way, serve in Vienna," reminisces DiRocco. "Jane said, 'If you want to see behind the curtain of the Town and really get involved, volunteer on a board or commission.'"

The next day (in 2003), DiRocco applied for and eventually was appointed to a seat on the Transportation Safety Commission, on which she served for two years. Then in 2005, she moved to the Planning Commission, where she served for four years, including as chair, before being elected to Town Council in 2009.

"Volunteerism is my favorite thing about Vienna," says DiRocco. It's no surprise then that one of the mayor's favorite Town events is the Mayor's Volunteer Reception.

"I think Vienna is so unique in that there are so many skilled, educated individuals in Town who feel a sense of community and who want to help one another," she says. "I really take pride in celebrating them at the volunteer reception. I think anyone who serves in local government needs to recognize that Vienna's wheels run on the hard work of volunteers."

While volunteerism gets high marks in DiRocco's book, "political gamesmanship" does not. "Misleading politics damages the independence of Vienna and our ability to cooperatively work together," she says.

Although her Vienna pride runs hot, DiRocco realizes that Vienna does not exist in a vacuum, but rather is part of one of the largest and most vibrant urban regions in the country. In her book, those who govern in Town should not have Vienna tunnel vision but rather recognize Vienna as part of a bigger picture.

Michelle Gowdy, executive director of the Virginia Municipal League (VML), has worked closely with DiRocco for more than 10 years. She appreciates DiRocco's vision for being a regional – not isolated – leader.

"Laurie understands the bigger picture of local government," Gowdy says. "While she does represent Vienna as its mayor on our executive board, she also understands that VML is a membership organization and that Vienna can help – and be assisted by – other localities around the state."

DiRocco served as a regional leader from 2017-19 when she was chair of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC). DiRocco's turn as the elected official to chair

the NVRC came early and unexpectedly and at a time when the regional organization was in a dire financial situation. DiRocco, a former finance and business administration adjunct professor at George Mason University, ultimately helped the organization get back on solid financial footing.

"Mayor DiRocco understands being in local government means you are a collaborator and that there is strength in numbers and working together," says NVRC Executive Director Bob Lazaro. "It doesn't matter the size of your jurisdiction, everyone has an equal seat at the table. When we were in financial trouble, she rose to the challenge and got us back on our feet.... I appreciate her willingness to listen to everyone she can."

Former Councilmember Carey Sienicki has appreciated DiRocco's commitment to her "part-time" position as Town mayor, a commitment that often requires additional and long meetings and "after hours" community obligations.

"I think that Laurie as a leader really shined particularly at ribbon cuttings, which always take place after hours," says Sienicki. "I was proud to do so many ribbon cuttings with her because it really shows in a very public way the Town of Vienna going above and beyond in backing up its brand as a connected community."

As DiRocco puts a bow on her time as Vienna's mayor, she has a bit of advice for residents regardless of whether they've lived in Town for 50 years or moved in yesterday: "Read the *Vienna Voice* Town newsletter because it is chock-full of information about the Town and community," she says. [*Thank you, mayor!*] "It is full of everything that makes Vienna great, from the events, services, operations, activities, and kids events."

Another thing that makes Vienna great? A tradition of strong, collaborative, and compassionate leaders. Thank you, Mayor Laurie DiRocco, for your many years of service to the community. 🍷





Town receives nearly \$2.9 million in CARES Act funding; about half to be designated to support businesses, residents

At the end of April, the Town of Vienna received \$2.886 million in federal CARES Act funding through Fairfax County, which received \$202 million. Local governments with populations greater than 500,000 could apply directly to the federal government for the funding; Fairfax County is the only jurisdiction within Virginia that qualified. The Town of Vienna's share is based on its 2018 Census population estimate of 16,556 or 1.44% of the county's population.

"We're extremely fortunate to be part of Fairfax County," says Finance Director Marion Serfass. "We're going to use this opportunity to support our residents and business community."

CARES (Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security) Act funding may be used for qualifying expenses related to the health crisis, but NOT to make up revenue loss. The Town has earmarked about 50% of this funding, or about \$1.4 million, to provide economic support to small businesses and residents in need. Because state law prohibits jurisdictions from making direct grants to for-profit entities, the Town still is determining the appropriate infrastructure and program parameters to get this money to those businesses and residents who need it most.

"Vienna small businesses are being resourceful, creative, and really hanging in there as they face this unprecedented challenge," says Economic Development Manager Natalie Monkou. "The Town is fortunate to have a funding source through the CARES Act that will allow us to assist our local businesses. We know that one of the things businesses need most critically and immediately is capital, and we're working hard to be able to provide some of that kind of assistance to our local businesses."

While the Town anticipates a loss in various revenues of up to \$5 million in the next fiscal year (in both the general and debt service funds), CARES funding can only be used to cover necessary expenditures related to the coronavirus public health emergency incurred from March 1-December 30 of this year.


In addition to economic support for small businesses and consumer/resident grant funding to help prevent evictions and foreclosures, the Town will utilize its CARES funding for the following expenses:

- personal protective equipment for employees
- equipment and software to support teleworking

- cleaning services in public buildings
- hazard and overtime pay directly related to addressing the pandemic
- expenses related to reopening to the public
- paid leave allowed by the CARES Act to care for relatives with coronavirus.

"We're going to have significant revenue shortfalls, and the next year or more is going to be challenging," Serfass says. "But the CARES Act funding definitely provides some relief in that necessary coronavirus-related costs won't add additional pressure to an already stretched budget. And as a bonus, we have funding available to assist our community and local businesses that have been hit so hard by closures and restrictions."

"It's still anyone's guess as to how bad the economic downturn is going to be or how long it's going to be," she adds. "The longer that closings and restrictions continue, the larger the impact on the Town's — on everyone's — finances."

The commonwealth of Virginia received approximately \$3 billion in CARES funding, of which at least \$650 million will be disbursed to local jurisdictions, other than Fairfax County, throughout the state. 

From Hunter Mill Supervisor Walter Alcorn

County adopts revised budget


The Board of Supervisors adopted Fairfax County's \$4.47 billion fiscal year 2021 budget on May 12. The budget is effective July 1. (The Town of Vienna's fiscal year 2021 budget is scheduled to be adopted at Town Council's June 15 meeting.)

The board adopted the budget as revised by the county executive in early April. The new county budget:

- maintains, rather than increases as originally proposed, the county real estate tax rate at \$1.15 per \$100 assessed value
- provides little funding for expanded services, but preserves existing programs
- eliminates all proposed new positions except for those related to public health and one in the Office of Elections
- eliminates employee compensation increases.

"Our world changed drastically with the arrival of COVID-19," says Hunter Mill Supervisor Walter Alcorn. "It is heartbreaking to see what

this pandemic has done to our residents, small businesses, nonprofits, and our community. Now our focus is on continuity of critical county operations, public health planning and operations related to the pandemic as well as helping our most vulnerable residents. It is also clear that we still don't know what the final impacts of the virus will be, so we must continue to be flexible and strategic. But I strongly believe that we will recover...[and] as our economic outlook improves, we can make changes to focus again on our priorities that make Hunter Mill District and Fairfax County a great place to live, work, and play."

In addition, the Board of Supervisors set aside \$11 million for the county's response to the pandemic and authorized local spending of \$200 million in federal funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which includes more than \$2.8 million in funding that was directed to the Town of Vienna. 

Town pre-qualifying contractors for construction of new police station

Construction of the Town's new police station is expected to begin late this year. To ensure that work on the new 29,000-square foot facility, which is expected to be constructed to meet silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards, goes as smoothly as possible, the Town is requiring that contractors who wish to bid on the project be pre-qualified.


The pre-qualification process, says Police Chief Jim Morris, essentially requires potential contractors to provide evidence that they are experienced enough, financially liquid enough, and have worked on police stations and government buildings similar enough to Vienna's to be entrusted with this project. The deadline for receipt of prequalification bid packages was May 15.

"From the very beginning of this process," Morris says, "we've tried to take lessons learned from previous Town projects of this scale: what worked, what didn't work, where can we improve for this project. We've also hired a project manager – not just for during construction,



but to be involved in the planning processes along with the architect and to advise us on how to evaluate each contractor who applies with us."

The project already has been before the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and Board of Architectural Review and has been discussed with Town Council several times. Public feedback and engagement opportunities also will be a cornerstone for this project.

"We had been planning this spring to begin having open, Town Hall-like meetings where citizens can casually ask us questions and provide their feedback," says Morris, "Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 situation, we haven't been able to do that just yet. But whether it's through public meetings, once the public health crisis wanes, or more nonconventional means, we will welcome public participation as part of this project." 

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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 July issue is June 10.



Thank you, Vienna

What I know for sure...

by Mayor Laurie DiRocco

Thank you for the honor of serving as your mayor and councilmember for the last 11 years. My desire to serve Vienna started in 2003 when I was asked to join the Transportation Safety Commission and has continued over the last 17 years. Over that time period, I have had the privilege of working with caring and thoughtful volunteers, residents, students, and staff members, all of whom work in the best interest of our greater community and its citizens.

What I know for sure is that true accomplishments are a group effort. Every service the Town provides or new event or large project the Town embarks on comes to fruition because of the collective support and hard work of Town staff and citizens.

I am very proud of the Town for installing its first roundabout, renovating and adding a full-size gymnasium to our community center, and investing in our Town infrastructure. I am energized by the miles of sidewalks we have installed and our community focus on biking, walking, and an active lifestyle. I am encouraged by our first gold-level LEED-certified building, our advocacy for solar energy, and designation of a place for Town composting. I love seeing our first piece of public art at the entrance of the community center and our Town LOVE sign along the W&OD trail. I had so much fun at Evening in White and enjoy socializing with neighbors at our Chillin' on Church events.

I also can't thank the Vienna schools and their principals enough for our partnership in project-based learning. The high level of engagement of students of all ages in Town of Vienna activities has been productive and heart-warming. I will miss my Friday morning Mayor's Walks and reading to children during Mayor's Story Time at the Patrick Henry Library.

Overall, I want to convey a big "thank you" to Town staff and our numerous volunteers for these accomplishments and many others and

for making our community a more connected and enjoyable place for all of its citizens. Vienna volunteers, who serve others and bring love and support to our community, are what create our small-town charm!

I never could have predicted that I would end my term as mayor during a worldwide health crisis. During the last few months, I have mourned the community events and activities that I was to host for the last time, most especially the annual volunteer recognition ceremony. Instead, I have worked to try to keep citizens safe from a fast-spreading virus, support our citizens and small businesses through an economic crisis, and encourage adherence to stay-at-home orders. This is when the Town's tradition of fiscal responsibility pays off, and I am thankful for the adequate reserves in our operating budget and debt service fund.

I also never dreamed that I would lose my mother during this challenging time – a loss that I will never get over. But there also are positives during this surreal period, this forced "pause" in our lives: the ability to take stock of what is important and to reconnect to a hopefully more positive collective consciousness. When my term ends June 30, I plan to take some time to reflect and reset and then engage in activities that I believe in, that help others, and that bring me joy. I wish the same for all of you. Thank you for your support over the years and for all you do for Vienna. 🍷



A delicate balancing act: Vienna Farmers Market to open June 13

As it prepares to open the 2020 Vienna Farmers Market season June 13, the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna finds itself working to balance support for independent businesses with public health concerns. The market is scheduled to be open in the Vienna Community Center parking lot from 8 am-noon Saturdays through October 31.

"It's like we're in this strange catch-22 cycle of trying to both help our vendors do business, but also keep them, as well as our customers, safe," says Optimist Michele Wright.

Here are some of the precautions the Optimists are taking for the fresh market:

- All Optimist volunteers will wear face shields and gloves.
- Vendors will be required to wear masks and gloves.
- Vendors must provide hand sanitizer, bag products for customers to reduce touch points, and stay behind their tables.
- Vendors will be spaced out 10 feet apart from one another.
- To enter the market, customers are required to wear cloth face coverings.

- The number of customers within the market area will be limited to 30 at a time and only one customer per booth.
- No browsing or loitering will be allowed.
- No on-site food consumption will be permitted; all prepared foods must be packaged to go.
- Customers are encouraged to pre-order and pre-pay at optimistclubofgreatervienna.org. Cash transactions are discouraged.

Some of the new rules required to address the health crisis, Wright says, have cut to the heart of the farmers market experience. For example, all food sampling is prohibited. Because this is such a key strategy in helping to sell their products, some vendors have chosen to stay home for now. Still, the market plans to open with 17 vendors.

Staffing the market also has been an issue as many Optimist members are considered at high risk if they contract COVID-19.

"Staffing normally would not be an issue," Wright says, "but we want to respect peoples' choice to stay at home and be as safe as they choose. We'll always err on the side of caution." 🍷

This year, Independence Day comes in a box

Though the Town's communal celebration of July 4 has been canceled, the Town's Parks and Recreation Department has put together a package to help citizens celebrate Independence Day at home.

Each 4th of July in a Box is \$20 and contains:

- s'mores supplies for a family of four
- glow sticks
- picnic blanket
- a craft or activity for two kids
- assortment of patriotic accessories and toys
- guide for curbside pick-up and delivery from Vienna businesses
- a lot more!

Boxes are available for purchase at viennava.gov/registration using activity #610701-A1. There is a limit of two boxes per household.

Boxes may be picked up the week of June 29 at the Vienna Community Center. Town staff will assign time slots for pick-up so that all boxes can be obtained utilizing appropriate social-distancing guidelines and minimal contact. 🚫

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.

April 27

- Held a public hearing regarding the FY2020-21 proposed real estate tax rate, which maintains, for the sixth consecutive year, a rate of 22.5 cents per \$100 assessed value. Following the public hearing, Council approved the proposed real estate tax rate, bank net capital rate, residential utility tax rate, and commercial utility tax rate as presented and directed the town clerk to advertise a Notice of Intent to Adopt at the May 11 Council meeting.
- Approved \$30,500 in spending with Moody's Investor Services for bond rating services.
- Approved \$839,000 for roadway maintenance with Arthur Construction, to be paid using Capital Improvement Plan and VDOT Revenue Sharing Program funding.
- Approved expenditure of \$1 million with E.E. Lyons Construction for water main and appurtenance improvements.

- Approved a memorandum of understanding between the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna and the Town for use of the Vienna Community Center for the 2020 Vienna Farmers Market and authorized the mayor or vice mayor to execute the agreement.
- Referred to the Planning Commission for its consideration and recommendation to Town Council two options related to temporary suspension of Article 13.1 – MAC Maple Avenue Commercial Zone Regulations of Chapter 18 of the Town Code: proposed extension of the suspension to June 30, 2022 and repeal of the subject article. Council also set a June 1 public hearing to receive the Planning Commission's recommendation as well as public input on the proposed suspension extension or repeal. Council further directed the Town Clerk to advertise the public hearing and a Notice of Intent to Adopt at its June 1 meeting.

May 11

- Approved an ordinance setting water and sewer rates for fiscal year 2020-21 and directed the town clerk to advertise a Notice of Adoption.
- Directed the town clerk to advertise an Intent to Adopt fiscal year 2020-21 tax rates and budget at the June 15 Town Council meeting.

Appointed to serve

At its May 11 meeting, Town Council reappointed the following individuals to Town boards and commissions:

James Brooke

Town Business Liaison Committee

Christine Caplan

Conservation and Sustainability Commission

Beth Eachus

Transportation Safety Commission

Tim Fricker

Bicycle Advisory Board

Catherine Hardman

Pedestrian Advisory Committee

David Miller

Planning Commission

Donna Smith

Pedestrian Advisory Committee



HAPPENINGS around town

The **Vienna Arts Society (VAS)** is celebrating its **Art of Kindness** project by hosting a **Chalk the Walk** activity throughout June. Residents are invited to create chalk drawings at home in driveways, sidewalks, and other safe paved spaces to creatively thank those who have demonstrated kindness during this difficult time: teachers, mail carriers, doctors and nurses, scientists, emergency responders, etc. You also can write poems or funny jokes or draw scenes that inspire you. Take a photo of your artwork and send it to **ViennaArtofKindness@gmail.com**. Look for other Art of Kindness creative projects in the months ahead at **ViennaArtsSociety.org**. Other

VAS classes and events have been postponed, but members look forward to reopening the art center once the threat of COVID-19 has diminished.

Green Hedges School held its first-ever **Community Engagement Week** from April 27-May 1. Working from home, students and their families engaged in a variety of activities, including making masks for the Lamb Center, donating supplies to Second Story, making cards and drawings for Sunrise Senior Living residents, and writing thank you notes for INOVA healthcare personnel. The week culminated with a #lovegrowshere Community

Engagement Day in which students created lawn signs for frontline essential personnel. The mission of the week was to provide ways for students to responsibly and respectfully contribute to improving their communities.

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.



45 YEARS
Buswell and Bennett
Commercial Cleaning

15 YEARS
Clear View Homes
Diana S. Gibb
Vienna Barber

10 YEARS
C. Mack Solutions
Kincely Movers
Randi Simenson
The Tango Boutique
William Chappell

5 YEARS
ACE Massage
BCE
Glass House Real Estate
The Heartfelt Craft Shop
Lorna C. Lenigan

Namaste Spirit
Openbox Bio

Open for business

Town of Vienna business licenses were issued in April to:



Athletic Edge Sports Massage
massage therapy
226 Maple Avenue W
703-938-0315

Exxon Vienna
gas station/convenience store
395 Maple Avenue E
703-937-7116

Layla Spa
esthetician
354 Maple Avenue W
703-728-9330

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

15
years ago...

The June 2005 Town newsletter reports that Army Maj. Mike McNeally, who grew up in the Vienna area, presented the Town with a United States flag that had, at his request, flown over Iraq during an air movement mission to Mosul "in recognition of the Vienna townspeople and their support of the deployed military personnel in Iraq." The flag was a "thank you" for the 20 boxes and 70 stockings filled with holiday goodies, donated by Vienna residents, that McNeally distributed to U.S. servicemen and women stationed in Iraq.

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

June TOWN CALENDAR

1	Town Council Meeting • 8 pm
2	Windover Heights Board of Review • 7:30 pm
8	Town Council Work Session • 7:30 pm
10	Planning Commission • 7:30 pm
13	Vienna Farmers Market (VCC) • 8 am-noon

15	Town Council Meeting • 8 pm
17	Board of Zoning Appeals/Public Hearing • 7 pm
18	Board of Architectural Review • 7:30 pm
20	Vienna Farmers Market (VCC) • 8 am-noon
24	Planning Commission • 7:30 pm
27	Vienna Farmers Market (VCC) • 8 am-noon

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

20
years ago...

The June 2000 newsletter reports that Town Council approved the first project, at 144 Church Street NW, to be developed under the then year-old Church Street Vision pedestrian commercial zone, which was created to enhance the appearance and economic vitality of businesses in the Church Street commercial corridor.