

VIENNA Voice

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

AUGUST
2020

A candid conversation with Police Chief Jim Morris

As a police officer for 31 years, Vienna Police Chief Jim Morris understands that feelings about officers ebb and flow. Sometimes, like after 9-11, police officers are celebrated as national heroes. And sometimes, as in the wake of George Floyd's death in police custody in May, officers as a group are vilified.

"I totally understand society's anger toward police in the aftermath of George Floyd's death," Morris says. "Each incident like this erodes the community's confidence in the police profession. I look at the George Floyd encounter, and I ask myself how can people not lose trust in the police?"

In the midst of our ongoing national conversation about racial injustice and the appropriate role of police in the community, the *Vienna Voice* asked Morris for his take on several issues related to policing, with an emphasis on policing in the Town of Vienna. Here, largely in his own words, is what Chief Morris had to say.

When an arrest is necessary, Morris says that "the ultimate goal is to talk you into handcuffs." When use of force is required - Morris prefers the term "response to resistance" - officers need to use the tools provided to them, starting with their mouths. "Our job is to show up at the scene and talk things down."

When people are in crisis, officers must respond calmly and work to de-escalate the situation. "I believe the most important skill I teach my officers is how to speak to

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The Jim Morris file

After graduating with a criminal justice degree from Edinboro University in Pennsylvania and working for six months at a juvenile detention center, Jim Morris came to Northern Virginia in 1989 as a rookie police officer with Fairfax County.

Over his years with the county, Morris worked his way up through the ranks, finally serving as acting chief of police in his final six months with Fairfax County, before accepting the top cop job in Vienna in 2013. He worked in various Fairfax County stations, dispatch, and internal affairs, leading that division for four years. Over the course of his career, he developed emergency management protocols for schools, implementing responses to shootings and lockdown procedures, and oversaw the department's hiring, budget, and training.

A native of Latrobe, Pennsylvania, Morris says policing was "all I ever wanted to do."

He distinctly remembers the day that his 8th grade social studies teacher shared a startling statistic with the class: 90% of Americans didn't like their jobs. Later that night, he asked his father, who worked in a steel mill, if he liked his job. The response was: "No, I hate my job."

Morris recalls thinking "I'm not doing that, I'm not going to do a job that I don't look forward to." And for him, policing has fit the bill for 31 years.

"It's fun," he says. "I like getting along with people, seeing people - both officers and the community... Even as hard as current times are, it's interesting to me."

Morris believes it's his job now to mentor young officers ("I had great mentors in the county," he says) and to let them know that they are appreciated. He tells them: "The job is going to be hell some days. It just is. There will be days when I ask you to do things you don't want to do. You may not like the task, but you need to love your job." 📌



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community members. 99% of what we do everyday is simply speaking with people, whether at a community event, during an arrest, or with someone in crisis.”

The reality of policing, he says, is that there are times when force must be used to resolve a situation. While Morris believes that an officer “can’t lose a fight,” he goes on to say: “It’s critical that the response to resistance be appropriate and just enough to affect the arrest.”

Once the arrest is complete, officers are trained to check for any injuries to the suspect and other community members and call for medical assistance if necessary. “When the handcuffs are on, it’s over,” the chief says. “Officers don’t get to invoke their own punishment for what went on.

“We enforce the law, but we’re also given the responsibility of caring for those in our custody,” he adds. “I’ve always viewed being a police officer as a privilege. You’re working in the middle of the night, often making decisions by yourself – whether to use force, to stop someone, to pull someone over. You have to be able to make good decisions. As an officer, you have the ability to take away someone’s privileges, rights – no other profession has the capability to do that.”

Chief Morris believes that the key to improved policing lies in better hiring and training, developing an “early warning” system, and a willingness by those in charge to fire officers who demonstrate poor decision-making. “We have to be sure we’re hiring the right people,” Morris says. “Departments need to do thorough background checks, including speaking with prior employers about triggers or red flags.”

At a time when it’s important to hire well in policing, Morris is concerned that the current national climate will prevent some of the strongest candidates from applying. “I feel like if you’re a 21-year-old college grad, why would you be a cop right now? We need to demonstrate that being a police officer is still a way to make a positive impact on your community. Policing is a place where you can make a difference in someone’s life and be there to help them when they need it most.”

Key qualities for police officers include having a calm demeanor and strong communication skills. “You have to have a personality where you start low,” Morris says. “Anyone can get mad in 10 seconds, it’s harder not to.”

The chief advises young people interested in policing who choose postsecondary education to get their degree in anything they want, not just criminal justice. “Go get a communications or psychology degree, another skill that you can bring to the

See **Police** page 8



Community policing The Vienna Police Department hosts a Cops & Kids Fun Run and Bicycle Rodeo each year as part of its service to and interaction with the community.

Council statement on requests to divest from police department

On July 6, Town Council issued a statement in response to requests to divest from the police department. The entire statement is available at viennava.gov/policestatement. Here’s an excerpt from that statement:

“Town Council has received a number of emails and a petition asking us to divest in the Vienna Police Department. We acknowledge and understand the unrest in the nation and the need and desire to bring about an end to racial discrimination and inequity.... The Town Council and Town Manager strongly support the underlying spirit of what the petition seeks to resolve – the unjust treatment of citizens across our country, sometimes by law enforcement officials, based on the color of their skin. However, putting the safety and security of all residents in jeopardy is not a responsible solution to the stated problem. Town Council’s responsibility as the elected representatives of the community is to ensure that Vienna is a safe community. That includes a properly run and socially aware police department.... We are proud of the Vienna Police Department.” 🗳️



Policing in Vienna by the numbers

11,000

Dispatched events in 2019. Police department dispatchers received 925 9-1-1 calls and 18,500 non-emergency calls.

50,000

Estimated number of residents, visitors, motorists, employees that are served by the Vienna Police Department daily.

280

Arrests made by Vienna Police Department in 2019. 31% of arrests were of Black people, 65% were White, and 4% were Asian. 19 of the 87 Black people arrested were Town residents. 67 of the 182 White people arrested were Town residents.

65%

Percentage of Town of Vienna 2019 arrests that involved someone from another jurisdiction.

13

Use of force incidents during an arrest in 2019. Eight of the incidents involved White suspects; five involved a Black suspect. 94.3% of arrests of Black people did not involve use of force; 95.6% of arrests of White people did not involve use of force.

42%

Use-of-force incidents that involved a Vienna officer pulling out his/her gun. In 2019, hands were the most common use-of-force "equipment" at 47%. Other use-of-force tactics included taser and pepper spray - both at 5%

11

Internal affairs reviews in 2019. Nine were generated by policy and two by citizen complaints.

0

Officer-involved shootings in Vienna in 2019. Also, number of people killed by Vienna Police Department in its 70-year history.

8,332

Number of traffic summons issued in 2019.

405

Car crashes responded to, which resulted in 56 injuries.

164

Number of Group A offenses against property - e.g., robbery, arson, burglary - investigated by the criminal investigation division in 2019; 11 Group A offenses against persons - e.g., murder, rape, and assault - were investigated.

21

Crime prevention presentations made last year.

97%

Percentage of Town residents who rated their overall feeling of safety in Vienna as excellent or good - 2018 National Citizen Survey. 90% rated services by the Vienna Police Department as excellent or good.

#1

Vienna's 2019 ranking among Virginia's safest cities, according to backgroundchecks.org, with a 0.24/1,000 violent crime rate and 7.96/1,000 property crime rate.



Practice makes perfect Photos from a training exercise at Town Hall.

Policing and use of force are topics at Town Manager's next community conversation

Town Manager Mercury Payton will host a conversation with Police Chief Jim Morris and others on the topics of policing in Vienna and use of force as well as a path forward at the next On Deck with Mercury event. The August conversation is a follow-up to the July community conversation on the Black experience in America and Vienna.

Residents may attend the event in person; masks are required and physical-distancing strategies will be utilized. The event also will be streamed live on the Town's YouTube channel, TownofViennaVA. Should space remain available the evening of the event, Town residents who have not registered will be seated first and then people who live outside of Town. 📺

REGISTER AT [VIENNAVA.GOV/AUGUSTONDECK](https://viennava.gov/augustondeck)



ON DECK
WITH MERCURY

6-8 PM

AUGUST 11

**VIENNA
COMMUNITY
CENTER**

Vienna hires Calfee Zoning to update zoning code

by Communications Specialist Adam Kincaid

At its July 6 meeting, Town Council awarded a contract to clarify, simplify, reorganize, and update Vienna's subdivision and zoning ordinances, chapters 17 and 18 of the Town Code, to Calfee Zoning. The update is expected to take about 18 months and cost is not to exceed \$240,000.

Calfee Zoning, a national zoning consulting firm with offices in Cleveland and Washington, DC, as well as other locations, was awarded the contract following a rigorous evaluation process and interviews with three firms. Among Calfee's strengths, says Planning and Zoning Director Cindy Petkac, is the firm's experience in working on similar projects with small- to mid-size communities that are a part of a greater metropolitan area and often have underperforming commercial districts.

The most recent significant update to Vienna's Town Code took place in 1969; much of the existing Code reflects the original 1956 document. The goal of the current update project is to make the Town's Code more user friendly, visual, accessible, and relevant to modern zoning needs and desires.

Calfee Project Manager Sean Suder will oversee a team that includes YARD & Company, specialists in public engagement and urban design; Nelson Nygaard, an internationally recognized transportation firm; and Venable, LLP land use attorneys located in Tysons.

If the Town's zoning code were a car . . . Planning Director Cindy Petkac frequently compares the Town's current zoning code to this 1969 top-of-the-line station wagon.



Over the summer, Calfee will review the Town's current subdivision and zoning ordinances as well as existing feedback from Vienna stakeholders. At the project's official kick-off, a joint work session with Town Council and the Planning Commission that is tentatively scheduled for September 23, Calfee will provide a diagnostic analysis along with a public engagement plan.

"A key and early responsibility for the firm will be to establish a robust public engagement plan," says Principal Planner Kelly O'Brien, who will lead the Town's outreach efforts.

"This process is about community co-creation rather than community buy-in," says Petkac. "We want everyone to be involved and be given multiple opportunities to provide feedback throughout the project. We want the entire Vienna community to help build this 'house,' so we encourage everyone to bring their toolboxes and participate." 🛠️

2020 virtual events continue in August

Summer on the Green and Kids on the Green continue to rock online via Facebook Live through the month of August. Be sure to check out performances and give us a "thumbs up" sign on Facebook via @TownofViennaVA.

Kids on the Green (10 am Tuesdays)

August 4: Beech Tree Puppets

August 11: Lorenzo the Great – magic

August 18: Mr. Jon – music for kids and families

Summer on the Green (6:30 pm Fridays)

August 7: Big Bad JuJu

August 14: The Hot Lanes Trio with Bobby Jasinski



Town offers programs on health and wealth

The Parks and Recreation Department is offering programs this month that address heart health and wealth creation through real estate investment. The free programs will be held at the Vienna Community Center; space is limited due to physical-distancing requirements.

Jeff Wu from Agent Knows Homes will discuss benefits and challenges in this in-depth discussion about creating wealth through real estate investments. The program will be offered from 9-10:30 am Saturday, August 15. While the program is free, registration is required at viennava.gov/webtrac; use activity code #142526-A1.

From 10-11 am Tuesday, August 18, Dr. Katie Thompson with the Health Improvement Center will underscore that you are indeed what you eat – and your heart shows it first. She'll discuss how nutritional deficiencies can contribute to heart issues. Register for this program at viennava.gov/webtrac using activity code #142519-A1. 🍎



Spend time with the mayor

Mayor Linda Colbert is eager to provide opportunities for residents to meet with and hang out with her and has established office hours and Friday opportunities to bend her ear.

“Folks can come chat with me about anything they want,” she says, “just to meet me or to chat about an issue in their neighborhood or if they have an idea they want to share.”

The mayor has office hours during which residents may drop in or make an appointment. In August, she will be available from 10 am-1pm Wednesdays and Thursdays. In the fall, her open office hours will be 9-11 am Tuesdays and Thursdays and by appointment only Wednesdays. To make an appointment, email or call Town Clerk Melanie Clark at mclark@viennava.gov or 703-255-6304.

Beginning in August, the mayor will host different events open to residents on the first three Fridays of each month.

- On the first Friday of the month, she’ll host Meet the Mayor at different locations and various times. On August 7, join the mayor from 9-10:30 am for a chat at the picnic tables on the Town Green near the Freeman Store.
- From 1:30-2:30 pm on the second Friday of each month, Colbert will visit various businesses along with Economic Development Manager Natalie Monkou.
- On the third Friday of each month, she’ll host a Mayor’s Walk. Meet at 9:30 am in front of Town Hall to chat and stroll through Town with the mayor. 🚶



Town real estate tax due date extended to August 28

The due date for the first installment of Town of Vienna 2020 real estate taxes was extended by a month to August 28.

Town Council extended the deadline in April to provide some relief for residents during the coronavirus pandemic. The second installment remains due December 5.

For the sixth year in a row, the Town’s real estate tax rate is 22.5 cents per \$100 of a property’s assessed value. If Vienna real estate taxes are paid through a mortgage company and you receive the tax bill – bills were scheduled to be mailed out at the end of July – please notify the mortgage company immediately so that payment can be made by the due date.

Information regarding individual parcel assessments and payment information can be viewed on the Town’s Customer Self-Service Portal at viennava.gov/cssportal. General real estate information is made available to the public through Fairfax County records.

Payment methods for Town of Vienna real estate taxes include:

- delivery in person to the finance counter at Town Hall
- dropped in the night depository in the front door of Town Hall
- mailed directly to Town Hall, 127 Center Street S
- paid online by credit/debit card or eCheck; note that a service fee for credit/debit payment will be applied.

Questions? Call 703-255-6325. 📞

Local author pens adventure novel for young readers

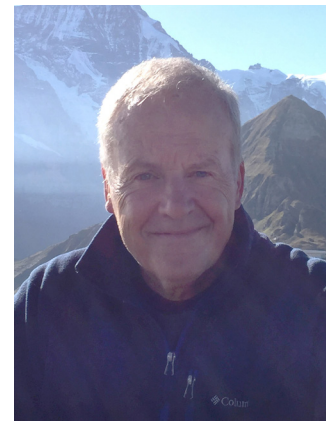
Vienna resident Craig Bradley channels a lifelong interest in Marco Polo in his middle-grade adventure novel *Peter Polo and the Snow Beast of Hunza*.

The protagonist, Peter, is the fictional younger brother of the famous 13th century Italian explorer. Peter gets his first opportunity to venture out from under the protective wing of his big brother when he is sent by the Great Khan to investigate disappearing snow leopards and a monster called the Snow Beast in the Himalayan kingdom of Hunza.

Bradley, who has lived in Vienna since 2004, spent most of his childhood years living in Asia and recalls his early interest in Marco Polo’s travels.

“Growing up with my brother in the ’60s and ’70s overseas we didn’t have TV,” Bradley says. “But what we did have were books, such as those about Marco Polo, and I was fortunate to live in some of the same places he visited.”

Though he is staying close to home these days with his wife and two sons, Bradley finds that living in Vienna still provides a flavor of the international life that he finds so enjoyable.



Craig Bradley

See **Novel** page 8

Conducting Town business in uncertain times

by Councilmember Howard Springsteen

Since March, the entire Vienna community has been living and trying to work in unprecedented and challenging times because of the COVID-19 health emergency. I do not know anyone in Vienna who has not been affected.

Our Vienna Town government employees have worked diligently and often innovatively to ensure that local Town services continue to be provided, even if, sometimes, in significantly modified ways. Essential Town services, such as trash and bulk pick-ups, have continued without fail. The Townwide street sweeping program has remained on schedule. Replacement of aging underground water pipes as part of the Town's water and sewer utility capital program is ongoing in many neighborhoods. Stream restoration projects are underway. Contract street paving and sidewalk repairs are proceeding as necessary. There have been no interruptions or delays in police and fire responses.

Building permits and inspections have continued in a modified fashion. Town Hall and the community center reopened to the public on July 6. Town Council and various boards and commissions have been able to meet via Zoom under specially adopted emergency government meeting regulations. While it has not been easy on the Town Manager and all Town employees, they have continued to serve and work hard despite the COVID-19 health emergency. We owe them a big thanks for their efforts!

In line with the Town's history of conservative financial decisions over the past 25 years and implementing some tough

budgeting decisions, the Town is managing to hold the line financially. Town Council, through the Town Manager and Town staff, has made realistic budget reductions and delayed expenditures based on forecasted monthly revenue projections and expense reviews. We have developed multiple budget scenarios that may be followed, depending on the reality of revenues and expenditures, which are being reviewed monthly.

Residents have been supportive of one another and have reached out to help neighbors in countless big and small ways. The community has made a big effort to shop at local businesses that are suffering economic challenges. Please continue to support your neighbors, local businesses, and organizations that need assistance. We should all continue to work to contain COVID-19.

Stay safe! 🙌



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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 September issue is August 10.

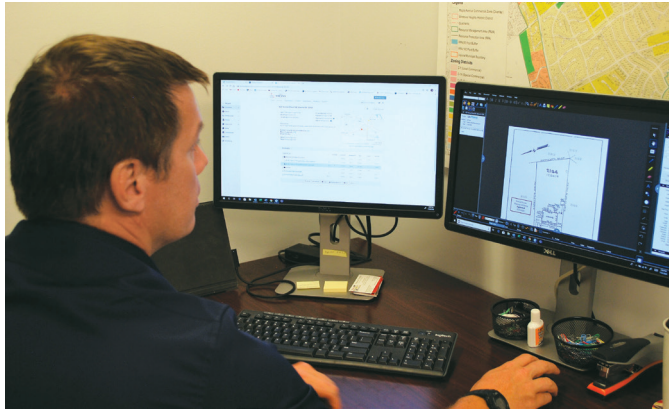


Town permit reviews go digital

Vienna's planning and zoning processes have gone digital: Applications for zoning permits and review requests for residential/commercial building permits may now be submitted online at vienna.idtplans.com.

Everything from fence permits to commercial site plans may be submitted for Town staff's review through the online portal. Applicants also can check the status of applications and schedule inspections, which still are being conducted, utilizing safety precautions, during the coronavirus pandemic.

Although the Town will conduct its review of building permits (necessary for decks, additions, new homes, porches, etc.) through the new system, applicants should be aware that building permits still must be submitted first through Fairfax County's separate online permitting system. More information about the county's submission requirements can be found at fairfaxcounty.gov/plan2build/interim-counters.



Paperless processes Zoning Compliance Officer Francis Jung uses the Town's new online system to review plans.

To submit applications, check project statuses, and request inspections, applicants must first create an account.

"We really wanted to provide better customer service by making these processes paperless," says Planning and Zoning Deputy Director Michael D'Orazio. "Now an applicant doesn't have to submit a separate e-mail or go out of their way to contact staff. Instead, after they have created their account and submitted an application, an e-mail from the service with any follow-up or comments on a project is sent to them, letting them know where their application is in the process."

The Town's new online system is not in response to COVID-19, but rather has been in the works for some time; funding was approved by Town Council in the 2018 Capital Improvement Plan. 📌

45

years ago...

The Freeman House was in the midst of an extensive restoration project. The August 1975 newsletter says that the house, "weathered badly throughout its many eventful and colorful years," was being "almost completely reconstructed to meet present day building and fire codes."

Flooring was removed, restored, and reinstalled; walls reinforced and support beams added; and roof shingles and siding added "to make the house look like it did when it served as a hospital for both Union and Confederate soldiers during one of the first battles that led up to the...Battle of Manassas."

Numbers on the RISE

Fairfax County's RISE COVID-19 Small Business and Nonprofit Relief Grant Fund is providing assistance in the form of grants to small businesses and nonprofits adversely affected by coronavirus shutdowns. Here's some data related to the program.

6,280

Applications received from small businesses and nonprofits to Fairfax County RISE grant program

306

Applications from Town of Vienna businesses

~2,189

Total number of businesses and nonprofits in Fairfax County invited to proceed to second phase of grant process

116

Vienna businesses invited to second phase

\$1 million

Town's contribution to RISE grant program, specifically to support Town businesses

\$1.6 million

Approximate portion of the \$26 million total in RISE grant funds directed to Town of Vienna businesses

\$20 million

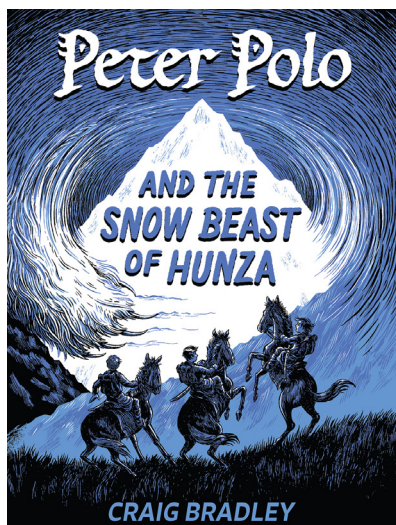
Approved funding (in addition to the original \$26 million) from Fairfax County to provide additional grants to applicants who have already applied



Novel from page 5

“After living abroad for so many years, I have found that Vienna has many of the advantages of a small town while offering the chance to engage with people from all over the world. It’s been a great place to live and work.”

Bradley is already working on part two of Peter Polo’s adventures, this time in the Southeast Asian kingdom of Lan Xang. To find out what happens on Peter’s first adventure, *Snow Beast* may be purchased on Amazon as well as from belleislebooks.com. The book also is available at Vienna’s Bards Alley bookstore on Church Street. 🐾



Adventures in illustration Laurie Conley provided the cover artwork and illustrations in Vienna resident Craig Bradley’s new book.

Police from page 2

profession. We will teach you how to be a cop. Different degrees and life experiences bring so much more to the table and make for a well-rounded department.”

The Vienna Police Department is committed to interacting with community members with professionalism and accountability, Morris says, and to community policing. “Our officers are a part of the community,” he says. “They know the community, people, issues, and concerns. This is true community policing because we have the time to do it – we’re not going from call to call. Our officers will stop and play hockey with the kids or get invited to a kid’s birthday party.”

When citizen complaints do arise in Vienna, Morris says, most are due to perceived bad interactions with an officer. “99% of our complaints, internal investigations are generated from within,” he says. “We’ll see something in a report that we want to follow up on.” While the department doesn’t receive a large number of citizen complaints (two were received in 2019), when they do, it’s largely because a resident didn’t get the result desired or didn’t like the attitude being exhibited by the police officer.

The number one policing challenge in Vienna, the chief says, is keeping officers trained and engaged at the level necessary. “We don’t have volumes of serious crime in Vienna so I’m constantly looking for ways to expose officers to investigations, reminding them to be safe.



I don’t want anyone getting complacent. Bad people, crimes do come through Vienna – we must be prepared to respond.

“The Vienna Police Department has had amazing community support from the day I arrived, dating back decades,” Morris says. “I don’t want to lose that – especially over something that happened 1,100 miles from here. At the same time, I don’t want to ignore the need to make changes and improvements, to identify gaps. I want to be sure we’re bringing best policing practices to Vienna.” 🐾



Virginia's new rules of the road

Several new state laws that became effective July 1 aim to protect vulnerable road users and reduce injuries.

- Drivers must now stop (not just yield) to pedestrians in marked and unmarked crosswalks. This includes clearly marked crosswalks, any regular pedestrian crossing (such as residential intersections) even if unmarked, or any intersection where the maximum speed limit is not more than 35 miles per hour. Approaching vehicles in adjacent lanes or from behind cannot pass the stopped vehicle. Once the pedestrian has passed the lane in which the vehicle is stopped, the driver may go.
- A driver who operates a vehicle in a careless or distracted manner and causes harm to a vulnerable road user, such as a pedestrian, cyclist, or e-scooter rider, will be charged with a class one misdemeanor.
- Bike lanes may not be used to pass around a stopped vehicle.

Drivers should also be aware that beginning January 1, it will be illegal to hold a handheld personal communications device (i.e., smart phone) while operating a motor vehicle on Virginia highways.

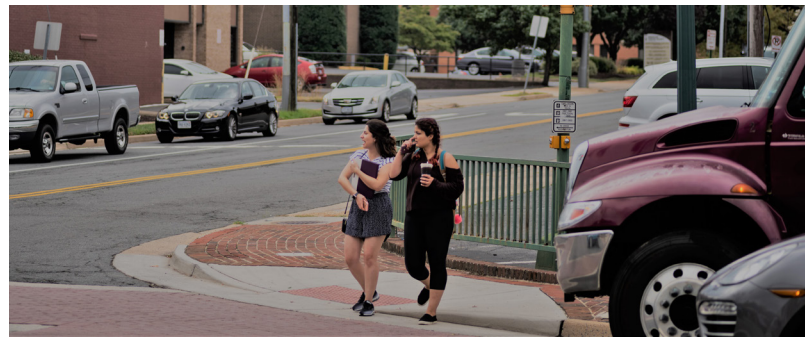
A few other new state laws that may be of interest:

- No-excuse absentee voting is now permitted for the entire 45-day absentee voting period, including in person and by mail.
- In an effort to prohibit bias-based profiling, state and local law enforcement agencies are required to submit quarterly data to the Virginia State Police. Any time a driver is stopped, the officer must report race, ethnicity, age, and gender of the person

stopped; reason for the stop; location of the stop; result of the stop (e.g., warning, citation, summons, arrest); and whether the vehicle or person was searched.

- A new law prohibits discrimination in public and private employment on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Several new laws related to firearms went into effect. Among other things, these new laws allow localities to regulate firearms in government buildings, parks, recreation centers, and permitted events; require background checks on any sale; and require that any loss or theft of a firearm be reported within 48 hours.
- Possession of small amounts of marijuana was decriminalized, and a workgroup study on legalization of marijuana was convened with a report due by November 30.

For more details on new Virginia laws, visit <http://dls.virginia.gov/pubs/idc/idc20.pdf>. 📄



Enjoy summertime with fireflies

by Desiree Di Mauro, Conservation and Sustainability Commission

Now that summer has arrived in Vienna, it's time to enjoy a favorite seasonal activity – watching fireflies light up the night! Fireflies aren't just cool, they're specialized predators that feed on insect larvae, slugs, and snails, helping keep ecosystems in delicate balance. Most firefly species also are vital pollinators.

A great family activity that involves fireflies and citizen science is Firefly Watch (massaudobon.org/get-involved/citizen-science/firefly-watch). By watching fireflies for only 10 minutes once a week, you can help scientists conduct important research about firefly natural history. It's a fun activity for kids and adults.

There are other ways you can help protect fireflies too. According to a recent Reuters article by Will Dunham, the main threats to fireflies are habitat loss, light pollution, and agricultural use of pesticides.

Here's how Vienna residents can help fireflies:

- Protect fireflies from light pollution by **turning off porchlights** and other outdoor lighting when you aren't outdoors. Fireflies need darkness to see bioluminescent courtship signals from potential mates.

- **Minimize use of outdoor pesticides and insecticides.** Fireflies are most sensitive during their larval (or juvenile) stages. Young fireflies can spend up to two years living below ground or in water, where many insecticides remain long after they have been sprayed.

If you want to reduce mosquitos in your yard, but don't want to harm fireflies, Fairfax County's *Your Field Guide to Battle Mosquitos* has some suggestions. First, eliminate all standing water – remember, mosquitos can breed in a teaspoon of standing water. If you can't dump water out, treat it with a mosquito-specific larvicide. And finally, try a natural mosquito repellent – Keep Loudoun Beautiful recently posted this mosquito-repellant recipe on its Instagram site:

- 1 big bottle of blue cheap mouthwash
- 3 cups of Epsom salt
- 3 stale 12-ounce beers
- Mix until salt is dissolved. Spray around your porch and enjoy a mosquito-free firefly watch! 🦋

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.

July 6

- Increased by \$40,000 FY2020 supplemental legal fees to Briglia Hundley.
- Approved \$31,000 in additional FY20 spending with Broad Run Recycling for construction and demolition debris disposal.
- Approved appropriation of \$47,000 for an annual auditing contract with Robinson Farmer Cox Associates.
- Renewed a contract with Tyler Technologies for maintenance, support, and training services for \$98,780.
- Awarded a contract for \$223,900, not to exceed \$240,000, to Calfee Zoning to clarify, simplify, reorganize, and update subdivision and zoning ordinances in chapters 17 and 18 of the Town Code.
- Approved a request for a waiver of a masonry wall required at the rear of a proposed building located at 223-241 Mill Street NE, finding that such a wall would not protect nearby residential properties against loss of privacy, trespass by persons or vehicles, or intrusion of noise or trash attributable to activities conducted at 223-241 Mill Street. Council also approved a request for a modification of a requirement related to the size of the loading space and the proposed landscape plan for the proposed new self-storage building.
- Referred amendments to *Chapter 18 – Zoning, Article 19. – Nameplates and Signs, Sec. 18-185 – Special regulations for certain uses and signs, Subsection E – Temporary Signs* and other amendments under Article 19 to the Planning Commission for consideration. Proposed amendments are based on a model sign ordinance prepared by the Local Government Attorneys Association of Virginia. Council also set a public hearing for September 14 to receive the Planning Commission's recommendations as well as public input on proposed amendments.
- Authorized the Police Department to purchase 11 in-car radar units and 10 handheld Lidar units from Kustom Signal, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$51,202, the majority of which will be reimbursed through a grant.
- Authorized the police facility project to move forward to the construction bid process with option #1 (the existing design) as the selected design for the plaza.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the Town to obtain financing for vehicle and equipment purchases in an amount not to exceed \$431,800 in principal.
- Awarded an engineering design contract to Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions for \$427,003 for engineering design services for a Bear Branch-Southside Park stream restoration project. Funding for this project will come from Fairfax County stormwater fees and a grant from the Department of Environmental Quality Stormwater Local Assistance Fund.
- Approved expenditure of \$47,137.50 in CARES Act funding to purchase network security upgrades, riding a GSA contract with Carahsoft.
- Authorized the Police Department to expend \$60,000 in CARES Act funding to purchase and equip a Ford transit van for the purpose of safely transporting prisoners.
- Rolled forward \$1,815,700 in CARES Act funding to be used to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
- Set a public hearing for August 31 regarding amendment of the FY2020 budget by \$1,070,860, to account for use of CARES Act funds.
- Set a public hearing for August 31 regarding amendment of the FY2021 budget by \$1,815,700 to account for rollover of CARES Act funds.
- Approved a federal sub-award agreement with Fairfax County to accept \$2,866,552 in CARES Act funds and to allocate \$1 million in the Town's CARES Act funding to the county's RISE grant program specifically to assist Town of Vienna small businesses.



Vienna businesses with staying power

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

50 YEARS

John Edwards Hair Design

35 YEARS

Appletree II
The Promas Landlord
Software Center
Richard J. Dellork

20 YEARS

Software Systems Consulting

15 YEARS

Data Dimensions Tek Corporation
Manhattan Bagel

10 YEARS

Altara Systems
Body Grace
Molly's Yogurt
Unity III

5 YEARS

Diamax Information Systems Corporation
H2K Solutions
Pointweaver
Pure Barre

20
years ago...

Having just completed the first year of its expanded curbside recycling program, the Town of Vienna celebrated 25 years of leadership in recycling efforts. The August 2000 newsletter reports that the Town's curbside newspaper pick-up program, begun in 1975, was the first of its kind in Northern Virginia.



HAPPENINGS around town

The **Vienna Arts Society (VAS)**, in partnership with **Vienna Girl Scout Service Unit 50-10** and its 44 troops, invites residents to participate in its August **Kindness Project**. Have fun painting river rocks with acrylic paint, add a clear outdoor sealant, and place the painted rocks in the native garden in front of the community center or on the stone wall at the Town Green. Take a photo of your work and send it to ViennaArtofKindness@gmail.com or post it on Instagram and tag @vienna_arts_society so that VAS can share it with everybody. More information at ViennaArtsSociety.org.

In June, the **Vienna Business Association** awarded its first annual **Corporate Social Responsibility Award** to **Lydia Russo** for demonstrating exemplary social responsibility to the Vienna community during the coronavirus pandemic. Russo was recognized for her extraordinary efforts to raise money, social awareness, and community action for food-insecure families, frontline workers, and first responders as well as local restaurants through the Vienna VA Foodies Facebook group she founded.

The **Vienna Arts Society** will present a **double exhibition celebrating its Art of Kindness projects** in the Village Green gallery at 513 Maple Avenue W. *Little Bits of Kindness* is a fundraiser featuring small artworks that will sell for \$50 each.

Plus More showcases members' larger artworks. The exhibits are open 10 am-5 pm Monday-Friday August 3-September 27. Find more information at ViennaArtsSociety.org.

The **Freeman Store** is offering some of its most popular merchandise, including items from the Used Book Cellar, at **popup online sales**. These are limited-time-only sales with a one-day porch pick-up. For the next scheduled sale, check historicviennainc.org, @freemanstore_museum on Instagram, or the Historic Vienna, Inc. Facebook group. If you're interested in purchasing an item outside of these sales, email your request to historicviennava@gmail.com.

Registration for **Harmonia School of Music & Art's fall private music lessons and group classes** is now available through a new, convenient online registration system. The school is limiting class sizes to maintain social distancing and making use of its 7,000-square foot facility. Registration for auditions for the fall main stage production of *Rent: School Edition* also is open. For more information, call 703-938-7301 or register at harmoniaschool.org.

The **Vienna Arts Society's Art Center** at 243 Church Street NW **has reopened by appointment only**. Masks and social distancing

are required. To make an appointment or inquire about an art purchase, call 703-319-3971 from 12-4 pm Wednesday-Saturday. Two exhibits, *Water Water Everywhere* and *The Healing Wall*, are on display through Labor Day. Virtual exhibits are available at ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Many **Vienna Wireless Society** members participated in the **American Radio Relay League's Field Day** at the end of June. This annual event is the most popular on-air event in the U.S. and Canada for the national association for amateur radio operators. This year, due to concerns related to COVID-19, the Vienna Wireless Society's participation was hosted across several locations or with members participating individually. The premier amateur radio club in Northern Virginia since 1963, the Vienna club has more than 250 members.

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.

Open for business

Town of Vienna business licenses were issued in June to:

Myriad
flipping houses
103 Oak Street SW
571-217-8702

Paradigm Shift Coaching
life coaching
507 Kibler Circle SW
703-772-7765

South Block
restaurant
207 Maple Avenue E
703-244-6207

Tablescapco
tabletops for parties
601 Tazewell Road NW
703-319-8287



15

years ago...

Vienna was named number four on *Money* magazine's top 10 Best Places to Live in the United States. The August 2005 newsletter reports that Vienna was ranked just behind Moorestown, New Jersey; Bainbridge Island, Washington; and Naperville, Illinois. The magazine noted that the Town was valued for its jobs and schools and that Vienna median home prices had nearly doubled in the past five years.

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

August TOWN CALENDAR

1	Vienna Farmers Market (VCC) • 8 am-noon
4	Kids on the Green: Beech Tree Puppets (Facebook Live) • 10 am
4	Windover Heights Board of Review • 7:30 pm
7	Summer on the Green: Big Bad JuJu (Facebook Live) • 6:30 pm
8	Vienna Farmers Market (VCC) • 8 am-noon
11	Kids on the Green: Lorenzo the Great (Facebook Live) • 10 am
11	On Deck with Mercury (VCC) • 6-8 pm
12	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.

14	Summer on the Green: The Hot Lanes Trio with Bobby Jasinski (Facebook Live) • 6:30 pm
15	Vienna Farmers Market (VCC) • 8 am-noon
18	Kids on the Green: Mr. Jon (Facebook Live) • 10 am
20	Board of Architectural Review • 7:30 pm
22	Vienna Farmers Market (VCC) • 8 am-noon
26	Planning Commission • 7:30 pm
29	Vienna Farmers Market (VCC) • 8 am-noon
31	Town Council Work Session • 7:30 pm
31	Town Council Meeting • 8 pm

10
years ago...

According to the August 2010 Town newsletter, rating agencies Standard & Poor's and Moody's raised the Town's general obligation bond rating from double A to triple A "based on [the Town's] continued strong financial performance, including consistently very strong unreserved fund balances." The Town continues to hold these highest available ratings today, which enable the Town to sell bonds (for capital improvement projects) at favorable interest rates, resulting in substantial savings for Vienna taxpayers over the life of the bonds.