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

## **Happy Holidays from** the Vienna Town Council

ome one, come all and ring in the holiday season at the Town Council Holiday Reception! The community is invited to attend the festive event and visit with Councilmembers on Friday, Dec. 9, from 4-6 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center. Enjoy refreshments, live music from the Vienna Community Band, and carols performed by the James Madison High School Madrigals. The celebration is a Town tradition, and everyone is invited!





DECEMBER 2022

IN THIS ISSUE





W MININER



## Vienna puts on a Festive Display!

rive around Vienna after dark, and you can't help but notice how the town sparkles with holiday lights! Now, it's time to vote for your favorite residential or business display in this year's "Shine Bright, Vienna" holiday decorating contest! Check out our map of participating homes and businesses and vote for the "People's Choice Award" online at www.viennava.gov/holiday from Dec. 2 through Dec. 9 at 12 p.m.



#### Visit all the business displays and win!

Contest alert! Snap a photo when you visit the participating business displays and share it to social media (Facebook, Instagram or Twitter) using #ShineBrightVienna and tagging us @TownofViennaVA to be entered into a drawing to win gift cards from local businesses. Participants may submit one entry in the drawing for each participating business. Contest winners will be notified via social media by Dec. 12.

The holiday decorating contest was started in 2017 by the Town Business Liaison Committee (TBLC) in partnership with the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department. This year's winning business will receive one hour of Mayor Linda Colbert's time as a guest employee, and winning residents will receive a Town of Vienna holiday ornament and a gift card from a local business.  $\boldsymbol{\vee}$ 

## **Halloween Parade** Winners Announced

he Gotta Swing Dancers emerged as the big winner in the 2022 Vienna Halloween Parade. The group won Best in Parade for its overall performance and costumes that tied in with this year's theme, "Time Machine: Vienna in the past, present and future."

Mayor Linda Colbert and Vienna Business Association Executive Director Peggy James presented awards to multiple winners during the Nov. 14 Vienna Town Council meeting at Vienna Town Hall. Here are the results by category:

#### **YOUTH BANDS**

1. Vienna Jammers Percussion Ensemble

### FLOATS WITH MUSIC

- 1. Vienna Arts Society
- Green Hedges School 2.
- 3. Alya Salon

#### FLOATS WITHOUT MUSIC

- 1. Flint Hill Elementary School 2. The American Legion
- Family
- 3. Stemtree Education

#### YOUTH PERFORMING GROUPS

- 1. Legacy Dance Institute
- 2. Kaizen MMA of Vienna
- Spotlight Dance Company 3.

#### **ADULT PERFORMING** GROUPS

- Caporales San Simon 1.
- 2. Northern VA Firefighters **Emerald Pipe Band**
- Bikes @ Vienna 3.

#### WALKING GROUPS

1. Historic Vienna Inc.

#### ANTIQUE AND CLASSIC VEHICLES

- 1. Northern VA Corvette Club
- 2. Merrifield Garden Center
- 3. Powers Pennington Family/ Rotary Club of Vienna (TIE)

### **BEST IN PARADE**

The Gotta Swing Dancers 🕚



Vienna Jammers Percussion Ensemble



Flint Hill Elementary School





Northern VA Corvette Club



Vienna Arts Society



Legacy Dance Institute



Historic Vienna Inc.



The Gotta Swing Dancers

## **Town Staff Prepares for Winter**

ong before the snow falls, Town of Vienna Public Works staff start preparing for the worst, while hoping for the best in winter weather. Snow-removal trucks and equipment are tuned up, supplies are checked and stocked, and this fall, a team of new drivers climbed aboard the Town's brine trucks for training on how to pre-treat roads. Training involved only water, and it gave the new drivers a chance to learn how to operate the equipment in a calm, non-emergency environment.

"We like to be as prepared as possible to minimize the impact of any wintery weather we might get," said Jeff Tufano, the Town's general maintenance and traffic engineering supervisor. "The winter brine application training is just one part of an entire operation that helps us ensure residents are safe and all our drivers are ready when the time comes."





Public Works isn't the only department bracing for winter. Every

Town department leader has been reviewing winter-weather protocols together to ensure everyone knows their role in various winter-weather scenarios ranging from emergency response to public communication. The Town's emergency management team meets regularly to discuss standard operating procedures and emergency contingencies as they track the forecast, determine the timeline for the snow removal response, and adjusts the plan as needed. All of this and more make certain that when snow is in the forecast, the Town is as prepared as possible to take action.

## **Digging for Answers**

eads up! If you see Public Works crews working at the meter box in your front yard, don't be alarmed. They are just checking your water pipes to make sure they comply with the revised Lead and Copper Rule released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2021. The revision requires all water systems, including the Town of Vienna system, to take inventory of all service lines and make the information public.

From now through 2024, expect Public Works crews to visit every meter box in the Town's water system. Crews will dig within the box to expose the service lines, verify, and record the material of each pipe.

For more information on how the Town monitors lead and copper, and to view the 2022 Water Quality Report, visit www.viennava. gov/2022waterquality, or call 703 319-8611. ♥





## **Drug Take Back Day Nets Huge Haul**

ienna Police collected a whopping 373 pounds of expired and unused medications during National Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, Oct. 29. That's about the weight of an upright piano or a large refrigerator! In just four hours, residents dropped off that much unwanted medication at the temporary Vienna Police Headquarters, and officers later delivered them to the Virginia State Police for proper disposal.

The October event was the 23rd National Drug Take Back Day, which is held in conjunction with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and local and state law enforcement agencies. If you missed the October event, there are other options for getting rid of your unwanted medications safely any day. The most convenient location for Vienna residents is CVS Pharmacy, located at 337 Maple Ave. E.  $\checkmark$ 





## **Town of Vienna Holiday Hours**

own offices and the Vienna Community Center will be closed on the following days in December:

## Christmas Eve (observed) - Friday, Dec. 23 (Closed at noon) Christmas Day (observed) - Monday, Dec. 26

Regular waste collection will occur on these days. For Community Center holiday weekend hours, see the Park and Rec Update in this newsletter or visit www.viennava.gov/hours.



Town of Vienna Calendar 2023

## Mark Your Calendar

he 2023 Town of Vienna calendar is almost here! Town residents and businesses will soon receive a copy by mail, and additional copies will be available for pickup at the Patrick Henry Library, the Vienna Community Center and Vienna Town Hall. The new calendar features artwork from the Vienna Arts Society, a schedule of Town events and public meetings and helpful information about Town services and ways you can get involved in the community. The free calendar is expected to arrive by mid-December.



## Last Call for 2022 Holiday Ornaments

et your 2022 Town of Vienna Holiday Ornament just in time for the holidays! This year's ornament highlights the LOVE sign along the W&OD Trail at Northside Park, and it is available for purchase at the Vienna Community Center and at Vienna Town Hall. If you want one, you'd better hurry! Stock is limited.

If you're a collector, a handful of the inaugural "Taking Flight" ornaments from 2021 are still available. The cost of each year's ornament is \$25, and proceeds will be used to support public art projects in Vienna. For more information, email Shelley Kozlowski, Deputy Town Clerk: **shelley. kozlowski@viennava.gov** or call 703-255-6303.



## A Curbside Christmas

fter the holidays, ever wonder what to do with those once festive, but now pesky, live Christmas trees? The Town will take them off your hands after you remove all decorations, including tinsel, and place them curbside with your trash. Please do not place trees in a bag. Public Works crews will collect the dead Christmas trees through the month of January, and the trees will eventually be chipped into mulch. Think of it as a holiday gift for Mother Nature! **V** 



## **Updates from Vienna Parks & Recreation**



### Pickleball Goes on Hiatus

Vienna pickleballers take note! Thursday evening drop-in pickleball is cancelled from Dec. 1, 2022-March

30, 2023 at the Vienna Community Center to accommodate the Vienna Youth, Inc. winter sports schedule. For open-gym schedule updates, visit **www.viennava.gov/opengym**.

### **Vienna Community Center Holiday Hours:**

Friday, Dec. 23: 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24 – Monday, Dec. 26: Closed Saturday, Dec. 31: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 1: Closed Monday, Jan. 2: 10 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.



## Fall Programs for Adults

Ages 55+ To register for the following programs, visit www.viennava.gov/ parkguide.

## **Sorting Fact From Fiction Online**

#### Monday, Dec. 12 • 11 a.m.-12 p.m. • Vienna Community Center

Do you believe everything you see online? Sensationalized headlines, misleading stories and even complete falsehoods circulating on the Internet make it hard for even the most discerning reader to sort fact from fiction. How do you know what to believe? Which news sources can you trust? In this free program, AARP volunteer Larry Lapman helps you identify what is fact and what is not. Armed with valuable tools and resources, you'll walk away confident in your ability to verify online content and spot red flags.

### "A Christmas Carol" At Olney Theatre

Wednesday, Dec. 14 • 1:30-6:30 p.m. • Olney Theatre, Maryland In a season stuffed with varied versions of the classic yuletide tale, Paul Morella's solo performance stands apart for its devotion to Dickens' original language and storytelling genius. One extraordinary performer brings to life Scrooge and his specters, the whole Cratchett family, and celebrants of Christmases past, present, and future — more than 40 different characters in all. Trip departs from the Vienna Community Center. Cost is \$74 for Town residents and \$92.50 for non-residents.

## Sign Up For Vienna Happenings!

For weekly updates on events and fun things to do around town, sign up to receive the Town's e-newsletter, "Vienna Happenings." To sign up, visit **www.viennava.gov/happeningssignup**. Also, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @TownofViennaVa.



## Leaf Collection Extended through January 2023

uring a typical fall, the Town's leaf-collection crews make at least three passes through town by the end of December. Town crews are currently working longer shifts to keep up with falling leaves and



aim to make as many passes as possible before winter weather sets in. You can check leaf collection progress and view a map of leaf collection crew routes online: www.viennava.gov/seasonalservices.

## Real Estate Taxes Due

The deadline for property owners to pay their second installment real estate tax bill is fast approaching. Taxes are due by 4:30 p.m. on



Monday, Dec. 5 or late fees will apply. Payments can be made in person at Town Hall Monday through Friday until 4:30 p.m. You can also drop payments in the Town Hall night deposit box or pay via credit card or e-check online at www.viennava.gov/cssportal. Questions? Call 703-255-6325.

VIENNA OICE

## Go Green for the Holidays

By Christina Caplan, Conservation and Sustainability Commission

ant to support the Town of Vienna and help the environment this holiday season? Here are some eco-friendly holiday gift ideas that support local businesses and benefit the Town.

- Make a donation of public art, a tree, a bench, or support for Vienna parks and recreation. www.viennava.gov/ParkDonations.
- Shop local and purchase services, merchandise, or a gift card from a local business or restaurant, especially one that has earned a Sustainability Challenge award. www.viennava.gov/challenge.
- Give classes (cooking, art, photography, dog training, yoga, wine tasting, language, music, and so much more!). Purchase from local businesses or check out offerings from Vienna's Department of Parks and Recreation. www.viennava.gov/parkguide.
- Decrease someone's carbon footprint with a compost bin, reusable straws and cutlery, or a stainless steel water bottle. Avoid gifts with excess packaging.

All these gift ideas cut down on the economic and environmental costs of production, transport, and waste disposal – all while giving a boost to the Town of Vienna. More great ideas are at https://bit.ly/waste-freegifts.







## We Want You!

ere's a great way to make a difference in your community: sign up to serve on a Town committee! If you're a bike enthusiast, sign up to serve on the Bicycle Advisory Committee. Got a head for business? How about serving on the Town Business Liaison Committee? There are also vacancies on the Vienna Public Art Commission and the Transportation Safety Commission.

Each committee and commission helps advance the Town's strategic goals by providing guidance and insights on specific areas of interest. The Vienna Town Council appoints applicants to serve, giving individuals the opportunity to be even more involved in the Town government.

Everyone is encouraged to apply. Eligible applicants must live in the 22180 zip code and be a registered voter. To learn more and to apply, visit https://bit.ly/tovbacopenings.





## **Re-Examining Electronic Public Meetings**

By Councilmember Nisha Patel



uring the period between March 2020 to December 2021, the Vienna Town Council participated in work sessions and meetings electronically due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since that time, vaccinations and therapies have been developed to treat COVID-19, and consequently, the emergency ordinance and state legislation allowing electronic

meetings ended, and elected bodies, such as the Vienna Town Council, are now required to attend public meetings in person, with limited exceptions for emergencies or health-related reasons.

I think this law should be re-examined to allow for more electronic participation for governing bodies, specifically for work sessions and advisory meetings. While I enjoy being in Town Hall, seeing familiar faces and listening to concerns in person, there are some disadvantages. Allowing for electronic meetings gives people who cannot make it to Town Hall for meetings in person to be able to watch and participate in meetings virtually. Additionally, the number of individuals that might volunteer or run for government positions could expand as there are lots of busy folks in town who would be able to fit an electronic meeting into their busy schedule. For example, a single parent who may need to put his or her child to bed could then log on from home to govern. Or perhaps there's someone who has physical or lifestyle limitations in getting to Town Hall every week.

Opening meetings to electronic participation would foster diversity among candidates who may consider running for office. COVID-19 gave us an opportunity to participate electronically and during that time, we were able to accomplish many things. I strongly feel it's time to revisit electronic participation for elected officials at the state and local level.





## **Topic on deck: Winter Snow Preps**

ong before the temperature drops, Public Works crews start planning their response to winter weather. The job is not easy, and they work around the clock to clear streets throughout Town. Tune into this month's "On Deck with Mercury" program to find out what it takes to get the job done.

On Deck with Mercury is a monthly community forum hosted by Town Manager Mercury Payton. If you missed last month's episode about holiday activities, hosted by Economic Development Director Natalie Monkou, you can still catch it and previous episodes on the Town YouTube channel: https://bit.ly/MercuryOnDeck.



## **Open for business**

Town of Vienna business licenses were issued in November to:

Adam Home Daycare, Inc. Home Business 304 Jade Ct., NW

**Chic Thrifting** Sales-Clothing 165 Maple Ave. E

**Coco's Sodas & Sweets** Soda Shop & Packaged Candy 513 Maple Ave. W, #110 **Deluxe Physical Therapy, LLC** *Physical Therapy* 510 Church St., NE

Himalayan Massage, LLC 360 Maple Ave., W Massage Therapy

Smoothie King Restaurant 258 Maple Ave., E Stephen Oh Studios, LLC Photography 405 Branch Road, SE

White Lotus Nails Nail Technician 431 Maple Ave., W

Winkler Counseling & Coaching, LLC Counsellor 410 Maple Ave. W, #4



## Vienna businesses with staying power

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

20 YEARS SALLY BEAUTY SUPPLY #2913 DOCTOKR FAMILY MEDICINE, P.C. 10 YEARS MAIN STREET HOME IMPROVEMENT COMPANY 5 YEARS SASSI SOAP T-MOBILE, LLC



## MEET THE MAYOR

ayor Linda Colbert offers several opportunities for residents to meet with her each month:

- Meet the Mayor: Periodically Mayor Colbert sets up "office" in various locations in the community. The next "Meet the Mayor" is on Friday, Jan. 6, from 9-10:30 a.m. at Caffe Amouri, 107 Church St. Stop by, grab some coffee, and share your thoughts.
- **Business Walkabout:** The mayor and Economic Development Director Natalie Monkou visit various businesses on the second Friday of each month.
- Mayor's Walk: Join Mayor Colbert for a chat and stroll through the Town on the third Friday of each month. Meet in front of Vienna Town Hall on Friday, Jan. 20.
- Office Hours: Drop in for open office hours 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, during which time the mayor will do her best to be available, or schedule a Wednesday meeting. To make an appointment, email mclark@viennava.gov or call 703-255-6304.



Mayor Colbert also does a weekly Facebook video highlighting upcoming events and Town Council business. You can catch it each Wednesday on the Town Facebook page @TownofViennaVA.



## **Mayor's Pet of the Month**

ere chicky chicky! Meet Lava! This Vienna resident Rhode Island Red chicken was hatched in a preschool and has a very loving and sweet personality. There's no question about it, we know why Lava would cross the road, for food scraps and stale crackers—her favorites!

Congratulations, Lava! You're the Mayor's Pet of the Month for December!  $\checkmark$ 

Nominations for the Mayor's Pet of the Week on social media have officially closed, but you can still nominate your pet to be featured in the Vienna Voice newsletter for Pet of the Month. Send an email to Mayor@viennava.gov with your pet's name, type of pet (please be specific), a photo of your pet, and three reasons why you think your animal should recognized. Nominations are accepted on a continuing basis, and there is no deadline for submission.



# HAPPENINGSaround town

#### Holiday Time at the Freeman Store Sundays, Dec. 4 and Dec. 11 12-2 p.m.

Searching for Santa? The jolly old elf visits the Freeman Store & Museum twice in December. Stop in to visit with him and search for holiday gifts for those on your shopping list while you're there! Be sure to look for bargains at the store's Used Book Cellar, too! Admission to these festive event days is free and no reservations are needed. The Freeman Store and Museum is located at 131 Church St., NE, Vienna, Hours: 12-4 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. Special hours Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2-6 p.m. with many books at half price.

#### CHO Holiday Drive Friday, Dec. 9 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Committee for Helping Others (CHO) needs your help to provide food and gifts to needy families in our area. Needed items include new toys for kids from infant thru age 8, gift cards for those ages 9-18 and grocery gift cards. Drop off items at Vienna Presbyterian Church on Friday, Dec. 9, 9:30-noon CHO will be setting up its Christmas Store for families in need. Volunteer to help with the setup or call to make other arrangements for your donations at 703-281-7614, box #1. Thank you for helping local families who are struggling right now.



#### Vienna Community Band Holiday Concert Sunday, Dec. 11 6 p.m.

The Vienna Community Band is partnering with the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation to celebrate 75 years of giving! The concert is free, and attendees are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to the concert, which will be distributed by the Toys for Tots program to families in need throughout Fairfax County. Then enjoy the band's performance of classic, holiday favorites like "Sleigh Ride" and "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year." It's a great way to celebrate the spirit of the season!

#### American Legion Breakfast Buffet-Holiday Magic Sunday, Dec. 18 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Enjoy Joe's ever-popular custom omeletts, scrambled eggs, pancakes, potatoes, bacon, sausage, Shirley's famous sausage gravy & biscuits, Post 180 cake AND a special December holiday cake! Cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children younger than 12. Proceeds are used to send local high school students to the American Legion Girls State program. For more information call 703-255-2918. Vienna American Legion Post 180 is located at 333 Center St. N., Vienna.



#### **The Vienna Art Center Special Events** Thursdays, Dec. 8 and Dec. 15 6-9 p.m.

Celebrate the holidays with artists, enjoy refreshments, and see our new exhibition, "Earth, Wind and Fire" on Dec. 8 at the Vienna Art Center located at 243 Church St., NW, suite 100LL. The Vienna Arts Society will also introduce the Artist of the Year!

Then mark your calendar for a special evening with art, Dec. 15. Browse the Gallery and Gift Shop, brimming with art, hand-made jewelry and many other original handcrafts that make perfect gifts for special people in your life.

Both events are free. The gallery is always open from Wednesday through Saturday from 12-4 p.m. and by appointment by calling 703-319-3971. To learn more, visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

## Vienna Arts Society Exhibit

#### Mondays-Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Explore original artworks available for purchase at the Gallery in the Village Green located at 513 Maple Ave., W. All artwork is created by Vienna Arts Society members. Exhibitions change monthly.



### "The Violin Conspiracy" Author Brendan Slocumb Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022 2-4 p.m.

Love a good mystery? Join mystery author Brendan Slocumb at the Vienna Community Center to learn more about his bestselling book, "The Violin Conspiracy." It features a Black classical musician and the mysterious disappearance of a family fiddle that turns out to be a priceless Stradivarius! This event is hosted by the Patrick Henry Library in partnership with the Vienna Community Center and Bards Alley. No registration required. The Community Center is located at 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna.

## **Payment System Upgrade**

## Do you pay your Town water and sewer service bills online?

The Munis self-service platform that enables you to do this has been upgraded. The improved system will help alleviate problems that resulted in erroneous late-payment notices to some residents. However, the upgraded system will also require residents who regularly pay their Town bills online to sign up again to access their account and make a payment.



## VIENNA TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN HALL MAIN PHONE 703-255-6300

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE 703-255-6330

#### Mayor Linda J. Colbert mayor@viennava.gov Chuck Anderson chuck.anderson@viennava.gov Ray Brill ray.brill@viennava.gov Nisha Patel nisha.patel@viennava.gov Steve Potter steve.potter@viennava.gov Ed Somers ed.somers@viennava.gov

Howard J. Springsteen hspringsteen@viennava.gov Full Council Council@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
Economic Development Director	Natalie Monkou	703-255-6338
Finance Director	Marion Serfass	703-255-6322
Human Resources Director	Michelle Crabtree	703-255-6351
Information Technology Director	Tony Mull	703-255-6364
Parks & Recreation Director	Leslie Herman	703-255-6356
Planning & Zoning Director	David Levy	703-255-6340
Police Chief	Col. James Morris	703-255-6390
Public Information Director	Karen Thayer	703-255-6330
Acting Public Works Director	Christine Horner	703-255-6380

Send community news and high-resolution photographs to **karen.thayer@viennava.gov.** All material provided is subject to editorial review and revision and will be used as space allows. **Deadline for the January issue is Dec. 10.** 

Police, Fire & Rescue Emergency <b>911</b> (Voice & TDD)	Vienna Police 703-938-4900 voice 703-255-5730 TDD Non-emergency 703-255-6366 voice 703-255-5730 TDD	<b>Community Center</b> 703-255-6360 voice TTY Virginia Relay 711 120 Cherry St. SE Vienna, VA 22180	Vienna Town Hall 703-255-6300 voice TTY Virginia Relay 711 127 Center Street South Vienna, VA 22180-5179 Monday-Friday • 8 a.m4:30 p.m.	PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID Merrifield, VA Permit No. 36
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# VOICE

# December town calendar

3	Quarterly Recycling Day - NPY • 8 a.m2 p.m.
4	Little Library Open • 1-4 p.m.
5	Second Installment Real Estate Tax Due
5	Town Council Meeting - VPD • 8 p.m.
6	Windover Heights Board of Review - VPD • 7:30 p.m.
8	Town Business Liaison Committee - VPD • 7 p.m.
9	Mayor and Town Council Holiday Reception - VDP • 4-6 p.m.
12	Town Council Conference Session - VCC • 7:30 p.m.
13	On Deck with Mercury – Pre-recorded - VDP • 6-7 p.m. (Cox Channel 27: Verizon Channel 38)

14	Planning Commission • 7:30 p.m.
15	Board of Architectural Review - VDP • 7:30 p.m.
15	Conservation and Sustainability Commission - VCC • 7:30 p.m.
17	NOVA Model Railroaders Open House - VCC • 1-5 p.m.
20	Vienna Public Art Commission - VCC • 7 p.m.
21	Board of Zoning Appeals - VCC • 7:30 p.m.
23	Town Offices and Community Center Close at Noon (Regular waste collection)(Christmas Eve Observance)
26	Town Offices and Community Center Closed (Regular Waste collection) (Christmas Day Observance)

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings take place at Town Hall, 127 Center Street S. Meeting schedule subject to change; check www.viennava.gov/calendar for updates. VCC-Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE VPD-Vienna Police Department, 301 Center St., S. • NPY-Northside Property Yard, 600 Mill St., NE