

This Month in History

from the Vienna Newsletter archives

AUGUST 1988 — The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has approved the addition of \$1.23 million to its bond issue for downtown revitalization projects, to be used for Church Street in Vienna. If approved by the voters in November, the bond funds will be available for improvements on Church Street between Lawyers Road and Park Street. Centreville District Supervisor Martha Pennino offered the amendment to add the extra funds for Vienna following a public hearing on August 1, at which both Mayor Charles Robinson and Greater Vienna Chamber of Commerce President T.R. Cook spoke of the need to revitalize the town's commercial areas.

AUGUST 1978 — A jitney bus service for the Vienna/Tysons area has been approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The Town Council expressed support for such a service in June. The idea for the jitney bus was developed in response to the rising costs of providing off-peak Metrobus service and the relatively small number of riders during those hours. No decrease in Metrobus service will be made, however, until the jitney service has been in operation for some time and its use and effectiveness have been assessed.

AUGUST 1968 — In an effort to encourage greener lawns and shrubbery, the Vienna Town Council adopted a resolution establishing reduced summer water and sewer rates for the third year in a row. It is the Council's hope that by reducing the cost of water, Vienna's residents will be encouraged to sprinkle their lawns and keep Vienna clean during the hot, dry months of August and September.

CALL THESE NUMBERS 24 HOURS A DAY:

VIENNA NEWSLINE 255-6333 POLICE INFO LINE 255-6363

TO ORDER A SPECIAL PICKUP 255-5727

MAPLE AVE. CONSTRUCTION "HOTLINE" 255-6384

Visit the Town's web site at www.ci.vienna.va.us

Vienna Town Hall
127 Center Street, South
Vienna, Virginia 22180-5799
Business Hours Monday-Friday,
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Bulk Rate
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Vienna, Va.
Permit No. 36

The Town of Vienna does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. The Director of Administrative Services has been designated to coordinate compliance with the non-discrimination requirements.

This document will be made available in large print or on audio cassette upon request. Call 255-6330, TDD 255-5735.

FIRE & RESCUE
911
(Voice & TDD)

**VIENNA POLICE
EMERGENCY**
938-4900 (Voice)
255-5730 (TDD)
NON-EMERGENCY
255-6368 (Voice)
255-5730 (TDD)

VIENNA TOWN HALL
255-6300 (Voice)
255-5735 (TDD)

COMMUNITY CENTER
255-6360 (Voice)
255-5739 (TDD)

Satellite Antenna Permit Required

A building permit must be obtained before erecting a satellite antenna on your property, and the following requirements must be met:

GROUND MOUNTED: One satellite antenna dish not exceeding 14' in diameter may be installed at ground level on any residential lot. It must be located in the rear yard, no closer than 15' to the rear lot line or any side lot line, and no closer than 10' to the rear of the house. Ground-mounted dishes may be no more than 18' high when positioned for operation.

All ground-mounted satellite antennae over 4' in diameter must be screened from adjoining properties by a 6' high wood or masonry fence, or by a living screen of evergreens not less than 5' high at the time of planting and with trunks spaced no more than 5' apart, of a variety that will mature to a height of at least 6'.

ROOF MOUNTED: In lieu of a back yard location, one satellite antenna dish not exceeding 4' in diameter may be mounted to the roof of the house.

CORNER LOTS: On corner lots, no satellite antenna may be erected in front of the building line of any adjoining lot.

For more information, call the Planning and Zoning Department at 255-6341.



Yard Sale Reminder

Each household in town may hold two garage/yard sales per year. No permit is required. Two advertising signs, no larger than four square feet each, may be displayed on the property where the sale takes place, and four directional signs, no larger than two square feet each, may be placed on other private property with the owner's permission. Signs may not be exhibited more than two days prior to the start of the sale. Signs are not permitted on public property, in the public right-of-way (10 feet from the curb or edge of pavement), or on utility poles. Illegally placed signs will be removed. For more information, call the Planning and Zoning Department at 255-6341.

Dumping Prohibited in Streams, Sewers

The stream channels and storm sewers throughout Vienna are not to be used as dump sites. Branches, leaves, oil, antifreeze and other material dumped into streams and sewers can block or damage the pipe culverts that convey storm water under many town streets and cause flooding and property damage.

Should you see anyone dumping material into a stream channel or storm drain, please call the Public Works Department at 255-6380 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. After hours or on weekends, please call the Police Department's non-emergency number, 255-6366.

By working together, citizens can protect their property and reduce maintenance costs for the Town.

NEWSLETTER

August 1998

Commercial Vehicle Parking Prohibited in Residential Zones

The Town Council has adopted an ordinance to prohibit on-street parking of certain commercial vehicles in residential zones. These vehicles are defined as follows:

- Any solid waste collection vehicle, tractor truck or tractor truck/semitrailer, or tractor truck/trailer combination, dump truck, concrete mixer truck, towing and recovery vehicle with a registered gross weight of 12,000 pounds or more, and any heavy construction equipment, whether located directly on the street or on a truck, trailer or semitrailer;

- Any vehicle in which food or beverages are stored or sold;

- Any trailer or semitrailer used for transporting landscaping or lawn-care equipment, whether or not it is attached to another vehicle;

- Any vehicle licensed by the Commonwealth for use as a common or contract carrier or as a limousine, except that one resident of each single-family home may park one vehicle licensed as a taxicab or limousine wherever on-street parking is permitted.

These restrictions do not apply when the vehicle is picking up or discharging passengers or when temporarily parked to perform work at a particular location.

Please Trim Plantings for Safety

Citizens are reminded to keep bushes, hedges, and other plantings on their property trimmed so that they do not obstruct the vision of motorists or impede pedestrians and bicyclists. The Town Code restricts the height of plantings, fences and shrubbery to three feet above the curb level within 25 feet of an intersection. Keeping foliage trimmed makes it easier to see approaching vehicles. If you have questions or complaints about obstruction of vision at intersections, please call the Planning and Zoning Department at 255-6341.

The Town Code also prohibits tree branches and other vegetation from encroaching on any sidewalk or right-of-way. If you have questions or complaints about obstruction of sidewalks or rights-of-way, please call the Public Works Department at 255-6382.

Every resident's effort to keep plantings trimmed will help make Vienna a safer and more attractive community, and all the walkers and bicyclists in your neighborhood will appreciate it!

DRIVE SMART VIENNA! According to the Transportation Safety Commission, there are 126 driveway entrances along Maple Avenue, approximately two-thirds of which are multi-lane. Making a left turn out of any of them increases your chance of having a traffic accident, so avoid making left turns from these driveways whenever possible.

TOWN COUNCIL ACTION

All votes are unanimous unless noted otherwise.

MAY 19, 1998

- Conducted an executive session for the annual performance review of the Town Manager.

JUNE 1, 1998

- Conducted an executive session to interview candidates for reappointment to Town boards and commissions.

- Reappointed Laine Hyde as the northwest quadrant representative to the Beautification Commission, and reappointed Neil Walp to the Board of Architectural Review, both for two-year terms.

- Following a public hearing, set the water and sewer rates for fiscal year 1999.

- Adopted the Town budget and set tax rates for fiscal year 1999.

- Awarded a contract for curb and gutter installation on the west side of the 500 block of Lewis St., N.W., to C&F Construction Co. of Washington, DC, at a price of \$15,957.

- Awarded a bid for asphalt milling, overlay and traffic marking to Newton Asphalt Co. of Alexandria at a price of 50¢/square yard for asphalt milling, \$30/ton for asphalt overlay, 70¢/linear foot for traffic marking, and \$12/linear foot to replace traffic loops. The total bid award is not to exceed \$257,668 for the fiscal year.

- Authorized the Town Manager to contract for the emergency replacement of the cooling tower for the Town Hall air conditioning system in an amount not to exceed \$13,323.

JUNE 15, 1998

- Conducted an executive session to interview candidates for reappointment to Town boards and commissions.

- Reappointed Deborah Dugger as the northeast quadrant representative to the Beautification Commission for a two-year term.

- Approved the final plat for the resubdivision of Lot 8A, Moidone Acres, 700 and 702 Marshall Rd., S.W., and waived on-site stormwater management requirements.

- Authorized application for a grant of up to \$10,000 to prepare a street tree inventory and maintenance plan. The grant would be matched by the Town in cash or in-kind services.

- Approved an agreement for purchase of electrical services from Virginia Electric and Power Company through June 2000 as negotiated by the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties.

- Referred to the Planning Commission a proposed amendment to the sign ordinance to restrict the use of telephone numbers on freestanding and facade signs and to establish master sign plans.

- Approved the Town Manager's award of a contract to Baistar Mechanical, Inc., for replacement of the cooling tower for the Town Hall air conditioning system in the amount of \$10,187.

- To clarify an action taken at the April 20 meeting, authorized negotiation of a contract to lease a traffic signal violation photo monitoring system from Nestor, Inc. The contract is to include a provision for 30 continuous days of equipment operation without failure prior to payment.

- Approved a change order for the Maple Avenue Enhancement Project in an amount not to exceed \$64,025 for additional design and construction phase services.

- Reappointed the following Town officials for fiscal year 1999: Town Treasurer Philip Grant, Town Attorney John Gionfriddo, Town Manager John H. Schoeberlein, and Town Clerk Carol A. Orndorff. (*Councilman Polychrones abstained from voting on the Town Clerk's reappointment on the basis of their family relationship.*)

- Voted to request that the Town of Front Royal be Vienna's "sister city" in the new Virginians to Virginians Program established by the Virginia Municipal League.

August 1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 All meetings are held at Vienna Town Hall beginning at 8 p.m. unless noted otherwise	3	4 Windover Heights Board of Review 7:30 p.m.	5	6	7	8
9 Trash & yard waste first collection day, curbside recycling second collection day each week	10	11	12 Planning Commission	13 Town/Business Liaison Committee	14	15
16	17 Town Council	18	19 Board of Zoning Appeals	20 Architectural Review Board	21	22
23	24	25 Transportation Safety Commission	26 Planning Commission	27 Beautification Commission 7:30 p.m.	28	29
30	31					

September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

TOWN OF VIENNA NEWSLETTER

Vol. CVIII, No. 8 Vienna, Virginia August 1998

VIENNA TOWN COUNCIL

Charles A. Robinson, Jr.

Albert J. Boudreau Vincent J. Olson
Steven D. Briglia Michael J. Polychrones
Robert P. McCormick M. Jane Seeman

Send news and comments to *Vienna Newsletter* c/o Town Hall.
Deadline for September issue is Friday, August 14.

The Town Council invites citizens to submit comments for publication in the *Newsletter*. Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. (This information will not be published.)

HAPPENINGS AROUND OUR TOWN

Artists and antique dealers are invited to participate in Historic Vienna Inc.'s Antiques and Art Fair on Saturday, September 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Freeman House, 131 Church St., N.E. (rain date September 20). The fee for a 15' x 12' booth space is \$40. To request an application write Historic Vienna Inc., Antiques and Art Fair, P.O. Box 53, Vienna, VA 22183, or call 281-1804.

POW-MIA flag raising ceremony will be held at the Vienna Post Office beginning at 10 a.m. Friday, September 18, which is National POW-MIA Recognition Day. The flag is a symbol of the nation's commitment to service men and women held prisoner of war or missing in action. Vienna Postmaster Al Miller invites all Vienna residents to attend the brief ceremony. For more information, call the Post Office at 938-2125.

Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. invites all Vietnam-era and Gulf War veterans and friends to attend the August 20 meeting at Neighbor's Restaurant in the Cedar Lane Shopping Center beginning at 7:30 p.m. This meeting will be an informal "get together" with free snacks provided. For more information, call 255-0353 or visit the web page at www.geocities.com/pentagon/8305.

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary is now accepting applications for its annual Fall Arts and Crafts Bazaar, which will be held at the fire station from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, November 7. To receive an application form, call 818-0555.

Your old magazines and paperback books (no hard covers) are welcomed by detainees at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center through the Literacy Project

sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Fairfax County Chapter. For those who have donated in the past, please leave publications at the usual location on the third Tuesday of the month *only* from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Be sure to remove mailing labels from magazines.) First-time donors may call project chairman Florence Roseborough at 281-2498 for information.

Vacation Bible School for children aged 3-12 will be held August 10, 12, 14, 17, and 19 at Vienna Seventh-day Adventist Church. This year's program has a tropical island adventure theme, and activities will include music, crafts, skits, Bible study and snacks, and conclude with a family luau on August 21. To register or for more information, call the church at 938-8383 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fairfax County Genealogical Society Computer Interest Group will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, August 13, at Wesley United Methodist Church, 711 Spring St., S.E. The group provides information and assistance in using the Internet, AOL, CompuServe, and local genealogical bulletin boards; software and software reviews published in leading genealogical software publications; and other genealogical computer user groups worldwide. For more information, call George Archer at 264-1372 or send e-mail to garcher@bix.com.

State Delegate Jeannemarie Devolites has opened a 35th District constituent service office at 501 Church St., N.E., Suite 315. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The phone number is 938-7972, and the fax number is 938-1706.

"Summer Scrapbook Sizzler" at the Vienna Community Center Saturday, August 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by Creative Memories, a company specializing in acid-free albums and supplies. The fee of \$20 includes scrapbooking classes, table favors, prize drawings, morning breakfast bar and afternoon dessert bar. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. For information, call Paula Kellogg, 281-5532.

Comment from the Council Table

Catching Up on Recent Events

By Albert J. Boudreau
Vienna Town Councilman

Let me take this opportunity to bring you up to date on some recent events concerning our town.

First, with the help of State Delegate Devolites and Senator Howell, we were able to get legislation passed that gives the Town added authority to restrict the parking of many types of commercial trucks and trailers in our residential neighborhoods. (See the article on the front page of this newsletter.)

Second, at the request of Council, Delegate Devolites energetically shepherded a bill through the legislature that gives the Town additional authority to deal with "blighted" property. Blighted property may be described as property that is dilapidated, lacks appropriate sanitary facilities, is overcrowded or deleterious in land use so as to be detrimental to the safety, health, morals and welfare of the community. Prior to this legislation, the only way the Town could deal with such property was to instigate condemnation proceedings through the courts, a long drawn out and costly process, made even more difficult by absentee landlords who do not respond to our efforts to contact them. Under the new legislation the Council can, through public hearings and by official notification to the owners named in the tax records, declare a property to be a "nuisance" and take more timely appropriate corrective action. This will not solve all the problems associated with neglected properties (many of which are rental), but it will help us deal with the worst cases and it is a step in the right direction.

As you are obviously aware, the Maple Avenue renovation is underway and we hope that it will dramatically improve the appearance and vitality of the Maple Avenue business corridor in the same manner as the Church Street renovation. The overall revitalization of the Town of Vienna is vitally important to its future as a unique town with its own identity as it increasingly becomes "an oasis in a sea of development." Many of the businesses and shopping centers have undertaken renovations, and the Town is now doing its part (in addition to continuing to modernize its water, sewer and service facilities). The importance of

small town revitalization has been nationally recognized, and with the help of Congressman Tom Davis, Vienna has been selected to receive \$2 million of federal transportation funds to continue the Maple Avenue renovation effort.

The Town recently enacted a tax abatement ordinance to further encourage renovation. Many of the homes in Vienna were built in the 1950's and early 1960's. The purpose of this ordinance is to provide an added incentive for homeowners to stay in Vienna and renovate their homes rather than move elsewhere. Additionally, it is hoped that more young families will move to Vienna. There are a number of young adults who were raised in Vienna and want to return here but find the homes of their parents lack the modern features and size they need.

Under this ordinance, homeowners can qualify for a tax abatement if they meet certain conditions. These are: (1) the house must be at least 25 years old; (2) improvements to the home must increase its assessed value by at least 25%; (3) the improvements cannot exceed the current "footprint" of the house by more than 30%; and (4) improvements must comply with all of the Town's normal zoning requirements.

(The footprint of a house is how much of the ground it covers. For example, the footprint of a rambler 24' x 36' = 864 sq. ft. Improvements to the outside dimensions of such a house would be limited to 259 sq. ft., approximately a 13' x 20' room; however, a complete second story can be added without any effect on the footprint.)

Under the terms of the tax abatement ordinance, there will be no real estate tax on the *improved value* of the home for ten years. The tax will then be phased in over the next five years at the rate of 20% per year. The benefit applies to the homeowner only and ceases if the house is sold. The complete destruction and replacement of a home does not qualify, nor do new home developers. The tax abatement is also applicable to the business community. (A recent re-evaluation of Vienna's excellent bond rating by Moody's cited this tax abatement incentive as an innovative program expected to benefit future revenues).



Councilman Boudreau

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has passed a somewhat similar ordinance, but the County ordinance limits the improvement of a home to 30% of the square footage rather than the footprint. The addition of a partial or full second story would be denied because it exceeds the square footage limitation. Such a limited improvement would most likely not increase the assessed value by the 25% requirement and would therefore also be denied. Since the County real estate tax is substantially larger than the Town's, a County tax abatement similar to Vienna's would have great impact.

Vienna will soon begin to use technology to detect red light runners. Unlike other communities that use film systems for this purpose, the Vienna Police plan to use modern video and detection technology working in conjunction with several of the traffic signals to view and record the front and rear license plates of vehicles and identify the drivers who speed through red lights. The Transportation Safety Commission has issued its report on traffic calming proposals designed to inhibit and slow down commuter traffic throughout the entire town. These will be considered by Council at work sessions and public hearings this fall.

Finally, the Vienna Sidewalk Plan is being updated for future sidewalk construction. Additional funds have been set aside to increase the amount of sidewalks that can be built throughout town based on the results of the recent sidewalk survey and overall safety requirements.

All of these actions are designed to keep Vienna "Our Kind of Town."

Welcome New Vienna Businesses

The following business licenses were issued in June:

Travel Partners (travel & tours) 204 Commons Dr., N.W. 522-3302	Angel's Day Care (childcare) 505 Mashie Dr., S.E. 255-2226	Driver Improvement Programs (defensive driving classes) 430 Maple Ave., W. 971-1468
Quality Software Design (computer software design) 205 McHenry St., S.E. 242-6212	Restaurants on the Run (office only for restaurant) 268 Cedar Ln., S.E. 820-1000	Northern Virginia Interiors (home improvements) 205 Cherry St., S.W. 319-1866
Vienna Bargains Gallery (new location) 121 Maple Ave., W. 255-0755	Hall Associates International (independent consulting) 409 Upham Pl., N.W. 255-6162	

Convenient Location, Friendly Service
Shop in Vienna and Support Our Hometown Merchants

NEWS FROM VIENNA PARKS & REC

For more information about any of the activities listed below, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 255-6360. All activities are held at the Vienna Community Center unless stated otherwise.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Vienna Youth Players will present two musical productions, "The Further Adventures of Maide Marian" and "A Tale of Sleeping Beauty," August 7, 8, 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. and August 9 at 2 p.m. (signed performance). Tickets are \$7 general admission and \$6 for students and senior citizens.

Quarterly stamp and coin show August 1 and 2. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Free admission. About 15 stamp dealers and 45 coin dealers will participate. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Coin Club.

MANAGING YOUR MONEY & YOUR ESTATE

"Why Good Wills Go Bad" is the title of a free presentation on Monday, August 3, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Join attorney David G. Hoffman for a discussion of will copies, do-it-yourself tax plans, and much more. Advance registration recommended.

BUS TRIPS

Enjoy a day at the casinos in Atlantic City on Thursday, August 20. A charter bus will leave the Community Center at 9 a.m. and return about midnight. The cost of \$30 per person includes transportation and casino package. Reservation deadline August 13.

Atlantic City Overnighter reservation deadline is August 24. The trip is scheduled for Sunday and Monday, October

4 and 5. The cost of \$125 per person double occupancy, \$115 triple occupancy, and \$155 for singles includes round-trip bus transportation from the Community Center, \$30 casino package, dinner at the Hilton Casino, breakfast buffet at the Tropicana Casino, overnight accommodations at the Holiday Inn on the boardwalk, baggage handling, and souvenir saltwater taffy.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Let's go bowling on Thursday, August 20, at 1 p.m. The approximate cost for two games and shoes is \$5. Participants carpool from the Community Center to the bowling alley. Space is limited, so register early.

Free blood pressure check Wednesday, August 12, from 10 to 11 a.m. Members of The Medical Team will be available to check your blood pressure.

AT THE TEEN CENTER

The Teen Center, located in the basement of the Community Center, is open during the summer from 12 noon to 7 p.m. Teens can enjoy cards, ping pong, pool, air hockey, nintendo, foosball, and other games and activities free of charge. Open gym hours are scheduled on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3 to 5:30 p.m. The Teen Center is always staffed by employees of the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department.

POTPOURRI

Personal Safety for College Women Wednesday, August 5, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The class will cover date rape, crime prevention on campus, and physical self-defense techniques. Participants should wear comfortable clothing and exercise shoes. The instructor will be Officer Virginia Palmore of the Vienna Police Department. The cost is \$5 for town residents.

Bring the whole family and enjoy a movie outdoors at Glyndon Park on Friday, August 21, beginning at dusk (around 8:45 p.m.). Admission is free. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. Call for information on which "G" rated film is scheduled. Parents are required to stay with their children during the show.

Arm chair traveler series takes you to Norway on Friday, August 14, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Participants are encouraged to share their own travel stories with the group. Free of charge but registration requested.

Beauty Spot

Vienna's Beautification Commission recognizes town residents and businesses for improvements to their property, volunteer cleanup efforts, and other worthy beautification projects. The latest "Beauty Spot" award goes to:

- Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., N.E., for the recent addition to the church.

Citizen suggestions for Beauty Spot awards are welcomed. Send them in care of the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department, 120 Cherry St., S.E. For more information, call the Parks and Recreation Department at 255-6360.

Interested citizens are invited to attend the Beautification Commission's meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. Meetings are held in the Council Chamber at Town Hall beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Wildlife in Vienna — Can We Coexist?

By Tom Taylor, Town Animal Warden

Every day the Vienna Animal Warden receives calls concerning the wildlife within the town. Vienna has an abundance of wildlife, including squirrels, raccoons, opossums, gray and red foxes, skunks, deer, woodchucks (groundhogs), beavers, and waterfowl (ducks and geese). These animals have learned to coexist in an urban area even after their habitats are repeatedly invaded and destroyed. Animals that normally would never be seen by residents have grown used to everyday "city" noises. These animals are no longer afraid and are now seen frequently. This often causes alarm for citizens who do not understand why these animals are here. They live here; this is their home, too. They usually only become a problem when an opportunity arises offering them food and shelter.

Although many citizens call this office delighted that they have encountered some wild animal on their property, others simply want the animal removed because they don't believe it should be here or that it may be a danger to the public. There is some risk associated with these animals; however, with a little care and "wildlife education" we can all peacefully coexist.

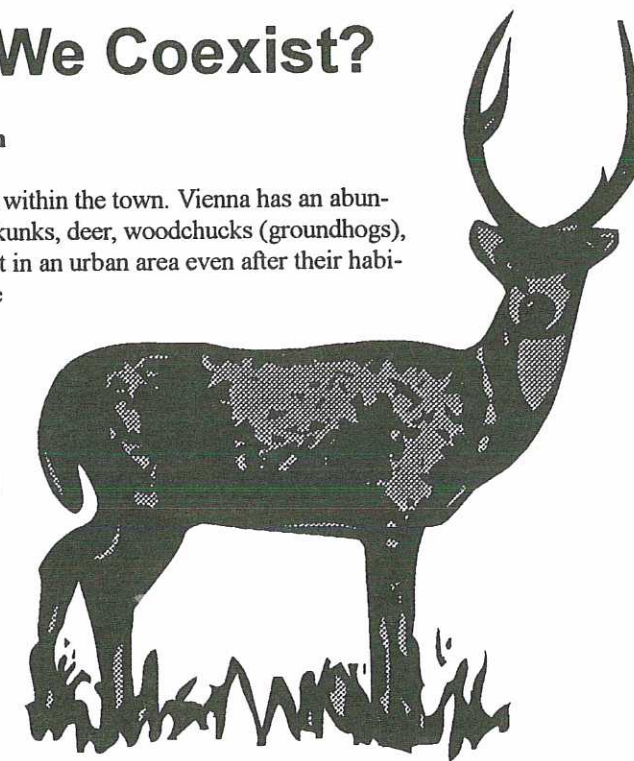
Here are some tips that may help citizens with their wildlife problems:

- **Do not feed wildlife (with the exception of birds).** By feeding wildlife, they become dependent on humans and unnaturally tame. This keeps animals in the area that would have normally moved elsewhere due to a lack of food. Animals that lose their fear of humans become a danger.
- **Do not leave pet food outside.** A raccoon does not know that the food you set out is only for your cat. Food left outside draws wildlife in.
- **Secure trash inside metal or plastic trash cans.** Garbage bags left out are great for raccoons, foxes, opossums, and crows to pick open and scatter all over your yard and street. If an animal does gain entry into your trash can, simply pour some ammonia in your next full can and put the lid on as usual. The next time the animal pops the lid off, he will not enjoy the smell that awaits him and he will remember to stay away. (This will not hurt the animal.)
- **Do not install outdoor fish ponds, bird baths, etc. if you do not want animals to frequent them.** A raccoon who finds a "goldfish" pond will simply move in and will not leave until every fish has been caught. A deer that finds your "watering hole" will return again and again, often trampling your landscaping while visiting.
- **Enclose crawl space under houses and small spaces under decks.** These are perfect places for wildlife to set up house-keeping.
- **Never try to corner or trap a wild animal.** Any animal will bite when cornered, and even a baby squirrel can inflict a painful bite. If you find an injured animal or orphaned babies, call the Animal Warden at 255-6377 for assistance.

These suggestions are offered as alternatives to removing wild animals when they are causing a problem. (For more suggestions on an individual animal, please call the Animal Warden.) Since wild animals cannot be relocated by order of the State Epidemiologist, trapping is usually used as a last alternative for problem animals. If they are trapped, the majority of them are euthanized.

Another factor of utmost importance in dealing with wildlife is rabies. The mid-Atlantic region is in the midst of a rabies epidemic. Fairfax County has doubled its positive rabies cases reported compared to this time last year. However, this does not mean that every raccoon or fox you see out during daylight hours has rabies. Animals that are acting lethargic, unaware of their surroundings, overly friendly, overly aggressive, or "drunk" should never be approached. Animal Control should be called immediately. Animals that are seen eating, bathing, or sunbathing are doing what is normal and should be left alone. Trapping an animal simply because it walks through someone's yard is not feasible.

In summary, the Town of Vienna does indeed have foxes, deer, and other wildlife, but there is no reason to be alarmed. All citizens must try to understand that these animals live here and will continue to coexist with us if we let them.



Our summer recreation brochure is available on-line at the Town's web site, www.ci.vienna.va.us.