

The Fight for Vienna's Community Center

MR: And now we've decided we need a community center. Desperately. We need a community center. So, the Lion's Club, bless their hearts, had been carefully setting aside some money to do some park development or something. There was a park nearby on Glyndon Street. Then they began to focus on a community center. There was a meeting one night. 'Anybody who thinks this is a good idea.' 'Yeah! Yeah!' So, wow. Along with other people who feel the same way, we got a community center group organized. Our goal was to raise \$85,000. Now this is just a couple of years after we antied up the money from the library. My friends would say to me 'are you out of your tree? Where are you all going to get this money from?' Well, we had a wonderful leader, a Lion's Club member. He was wonderful. He was very unassuming. When I would get really discouraged, he would say, 'Don't worry, Maud. We're going to get this building.' And we finally did. We got to \$65,000 in pledges and in cash and we hit a stone wall. We had milked the town dry. Remember these are all young, pretty still young families, with kids outgrowing shoes and everything. We didn't have fat cats around town at all. The Board members, we went to see the mayor. We said, 'this is what we have. If we turn it over to you, will the Town go the rest of the way?' And the Council decided to go the rest of the way. And now we had a library, we had responsive government we were getting, and now we were going to get a community center.