

HISTORIC VIENNA INK

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HVI Fall Membership Meeting “History of Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts”

The Fall Membership meeting of Historic Vienna, Inc. will be held on Tuesday, October 7 at 7:30PM *Patriot Hall, American Legion Dyer-Gunnell Post 180, 330 Center Street North*. There will be a brief business meeting before the program, and this year’s Volunteer of the Year Award will be announced.

Come hear the fascinating history of Wolf Trap National Park. Ken Bigley will discuss the past, present and future of this national treasure located here in Vienna. Over the course of a year the Wolf Trap Foundation presents over 200 performances by artists of all genres to nearly 400,000 patrons at the Filene Center, The Barns at Wolf Trap and Children’s Theatre-in-the-Woods. You will learn why Vienna has a national park, who was the visionary who donated a farm to the USG, why it is the only national park for the performing arts and how Wolf Trap got two 18th century barns and is now in the process of adding a third.

Win a backstage tour!

Attendees can enter a drawing for a behind-the-scenes, backstage tour for 4 of *The Barns* which will include the 1725 German barn, celebrating 300 years.

Ken has been the National Park Service Superintendent of Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts since 2022. Ken leads the NPS staff in conserving Wolf Trap’s beautiful, natural landscape for its environmental value and for people to enjoy hiking, bird watching, educational programs and simply being outside. He has served at many NPS national park sites, with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, and with the U.S. Forest Service.

The HVI Membership meeting is free and open to the public.

HVI Fall Membership Meeting

**Patriot Hall
American Legion Dyer-Gunnell Post 180
330 Center Street North,
Vienna, VA 22180**

Please park on the upper level only!

**Speaker:
Ken Bigley**

**“History of Wolf Trap National
Park for the Performing Arts”**

Tuesday, October 7, 7:30 PM

Exhibits at the Vienna Community Center

Exhibit at Rexall Drug Center

*Exhibit on the Victory Garden Fence
“Fairfax Resolves”*

*Upstairs Museum Exhibit
“Exploring Books Throughout Time”*

*Hallway Museum Exhibit
“Vienna Unveiled Through Maps”*

Inside this Issue

- P2 – Museum Committee: Exhibits at the Community Center, Determined Temporary Exhibit, Plaque for Sidewalks, Capturing Oral Histories, History Marker Researchers Needed,
- P3 – New History Mural, Little Library Museum Open; USA250 Celebrations: Vienna at 1775, Halloween Parade, Fairfax Resolves, History Book Sale, Vienna250 Photo Ops,
- P4 – Help Vienna Celebrate, Special Events: Oktoberfest, AHGC Bulb Sale, Calendar of Events,
- P5 Freeman Store News: What’s New, Meet the Maker; Used Book Cellar: UBC Birthday Celebration, Young Reader Roundup;
- P6 – HVI Board News, Remembering Dr Amsler
- P7 Heard at the Freeman Store and Museum
- P8 – About HVI, Membership and Volunteer Form

Used Book Cellar 9th Birthday Bash!

Saturday, October 11 from 10-4PM



Instagram
@FreemanStore_Museum



Join our Facebook group
Historic Vienna Inc.

Historic Vienna, Inc., a 501(c)(3) Corporation for historic preservation, operates The Freeman Store and Museum

P.O. Box 53, Vienna, VA 22183

www.historicviennainc.org

Visit us at: 131 Church Street, NE, Vienna, VA 22180

Email us at: historicviennava@gmail.com

703.938.5187

From the Museum Committee

Exhibits at the Community Center

The exhibit at the Vienna Community Center currently is *Vienna in the 60s*. Historic Vienna rotates these exhibits frequently. In December, an exhibit on Santa Claus will be displayed.

During Constitution Week, September 17 to 23, an exhibit presented by the DAR will be on display. Constitution Week was officially enacted on August 2, 1956, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower from a congressional resolution petitioned by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Determined – Temporary Exhibit

From November 15 through December 21 only, step into the Freeman Store and Museum's second floor for a unique opportunity to be inspired, moved and connected to Virginia's history.

Explore the traveling exhibition "***Determined***" on loan from the Virginia Museum of History and Culture (VMHC). ***Determined: The 400-Year Struggle for Black Equality*** traces four centuries of Black history in Virginia through stories of extraordinary individuals who struggled for equality and, in the process, profoundly shaped the nature of American society and the meaning of our collective ideals.

Developed by the VMHC and brought to you by Historic Vienna this traveling exhibition is based on the original ***Determined*** exhibition which was on display in Richmond from June 22, 2019, to March 29, 2020. It was created to mark the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in British North America in 1619 and to honor the enduring impact of Black Americans.

"*We are determined to be people.*" Martin Luther King, Jr. from the speech, I've Been to the Mountaintop, delivered on April 3, 1968 at Mason Temple, Memphis, Tennessee

Plaque commemorating Maud Robinson's sidewalk bequest

Upon Maud Robinson's passing in March 2019, the Town of Vienna was thrilled when they received news of Maud's generous \$7 million gift for the construction of



sidewalks. By fall of 2024, 6 miles of sidewalks were installed throughout the Town using Maud's generous gift. Another gift was used to plant trees. Mayor Linda Colbert, along with the engineers responsible to leading the sidewalk project were present on Friday, August 15, at Maud and Charlie Robinson's former property, to unveil a bronze plaque set in concrete honoring the Robinson's for their incredibly generous bequest and devotion to the Town of Vienna.

Capturing Our History

Historic Vienna is committed to capturing Vienna's history in a variety of ways. Patrick Henry Library, the Virginia Room at The City of Fairfax Library and Historic Vienna are collaborating to capture the community's memories of Patrick Henry Library. Stop by the Freeman Store to collect a kit to record and share your memories.

The Town of Vienna's personal history writing group, one of the Town's classes, is a resource for those who may be interested in writing their personal history. The group has been meeting at the community center for 36 years. Historic Vienna would be interested in any stories related to town history.

Free Family History Kits, available for check out from Fairfax County Public Libraries, provide a new opportunity to build connections across generations and save history!

The Our American Liberty Stories, collected as part of Liberty Amendments Month, capture the importance of being an American. You can submit your story any time on the Town website.

Historic Marker Researchers Needed!

Turn your love of Vienna into a permanent marker by bringing history to life—one plaque at a time!

Are you interested in history or love uncovering local stories? We're looking for volunteers to help research historic markers in our area. This is a great opportunity to: learn more about our Town's heritage, contribute to the preservation of local history, and gain experience in historical research and documentation.

Volunteers will be asked to: visit an area for a historic marker, take notes and photos of the site, research the location, people, events, and compile a short

report/summary based on your findings. No experience necessary—just curiosity and a willingness to learn! To volunteer, contact us at historicviennava@gmail.com or 703-938-5187,

New mural at Navy Federal Credit Union

A new mural honoring Vienna history and military veterans was unveiled in August at the Vienna headquarters of Navy Federal Credit Union. The new mural by veteran artist Patrick Sargent was made in partnership with Arlington-based American Legion Post 139. It is located along Mary's Mile Trail and tells 200 years of history in Vienna through the perspective of the historic red oak trees.

All of the mural parts are tied together with the red oak trees in the background, providing a constant observer of Vienna's history. The Civil War era portion features soldiers and their camps and the Vienna Train Depot. Next

up in the 1930s and 1940s era are Vienna's Freeman Store and Museum and the town's emerging development. As the mural turns to the 1970s and 1980s, Vienna is a more developed street scene with cars and a bicyclist. The mural's last stop is in the 2000s, depicting Vienna today with Wolf Trap's Filene Center performances, a busy open air market and a family walking through Meadowlark Botanical Gardens.

Little Library Museum Open

Vienna's Little Library Museum (LLM) is open on the first Sunday of each month from 1 to 4PM. Built in 1897, this historic property is now a museum, having served the town for nearly 70 years as a community library. Look for special events opening dates. If interested in a tour or volunteering email historicviennava@gmail.com. We need volunteer docents in order to open the LLM to the public. Please consider volunteering at this jewel of a historic site.

United States 250th Celebrations – 1776 to 2026

Vienna at 1775: A Social and Economic History

Panel Discussion – October 25, 2pm

What was the area we now call "Vienna" like on the eve of the War for Independence? A distinguished panel of historians and archivists will provide some answers to this question at a panel discussion on ***"Vienna at 1775"*** at the Community Center Auditorium on Saturday October 25th, at 2pm.

Sponsored by the Vienna250 Committee, the panelists will talk about the environment, the people who lived here (and who didn't!), the local economy, religion, and the courts. How many people were living within our modern boundaries on the eve 1776? Who were they? Where did they come from? What did they do and what did they believe?

This panel discussion will set the stage for a deeper understanding of the events leading up to the Declaration of Independence, and Vienna's role in that remarkable era. Period appropriate refreshments will be served.

Walk With Us in the Halloween Parade

For the 79th Annual Halloween Parade, *"Broadway on Maple,"* Historic Vienna, Inc. plans to collaborate with the Vienna250 Committee. *Dramatizing the events leading to the signing of the Declaration of Independence*, our float is inspired by the Broadway musical, *1776*. All are invited to participate, and period costume is optional, but will help us to set the stage! Beginning at Branch Rd. and ending on

Center St., Vienna's very popular event commences at 7 PM. If you would like to march with us, contact us at HistoricViennaVa@gmail.com or 703-938-5187. Please include your name and contact information to receive all parade information. You won't want to miss celebrating with us on October 29!

251st Anniversary of the Fairfax Resolves!

Historic Vienna's outdoor exhibit of the Fairfax Resolves will remain on the fence of the Victory Garden in the side yard of the Freeman Store and Museum until November 1. Free pocket copies of the Resolves are available inside the Freeman Store and Museum as long as supplies last.

American History Used Book Sale

On November 15, from 12 to 4pm, along with the celebration of the opening of the new temporary exhibit, *"Determined: The 400-Year Struggle for Black Equality"*, the Used Book Cellar will hold a special sale of books about American history, significant events, biographies of famous Americans, and a myriad of topics relevant to our nation's 250th birthday.

Vienna250 Photo Ops

The Vienna250 Committee has life size images of our founders and has created a 4x4 selfie photo frame and a 8x8 step and repeat banner that will be at Vienna250 events. Take photos and post them to your favorite social media sites and help us encourage celebration of the founding of

our nation! Let us know if you would like to borrow any of these items to your event.

Help Vienna Celebrate!

Planning for our country's 250th anniversary is just beginning. Historic Vienna and the Town of Vienna's Vienna 250 Committee are planning to bring special exhibits to Vienna and will plan a number of different ways to celebrate and honor the founding of our country. Let us know if you would like to help.

In addition, Historic Vienna will create exhibits in the Freeman Store and Museum and around town. If you would like to help us with the planning or have any items that might be included in these exhibits please email us at historicviennava@gmail.com and include images of any interesting items so that we can consider how they might fit in an exhibit. Please do not bring any items to the Freeman Store and Museum at this time. We would like items related to the colonial era in Vienna, Vienna history, and bicentennial celebrations.

Special Events

Oktoberfest, October 4

The Freeman Store will be open from 11-5PM for Vienna's Annual Oktoberfest celebration sponsored by the Vienna Business Association, on Church Street, Saturday, October 4. Enjoy beer and wine, great food, live music and lots of children's activities and games. More information can be found at www.viennaoktoberfest.org, the official Oktoberfest website.

Ayr Hill Garden Club Bulb sale

On October 11, 18 and 25, from 10 to 4, Ayr Hill Garden Club will be selling bulbs at the Freeman Store and Museum. Bulbs may be purchased on the day or ordered online at <https://ahgcbulbsales.square.site> for pick up on these days. The sale features a variety of unusual and new bulbs including American Natives. This year for the first time, they will have the Atlantic Camas, a camassia that is native to Virginia!

HVI Calendar of Events

All events take place at the Freeman Store unless otherwise noted.

Saturday, October 4, 11-7PM

Sundays, October 5, November 2,
December 7, 1-4PM

Tuesday, October 7, 7:30PM

Saturday, October 11, 10-4PM

Saturday, October 11, 10:30-12:30PM

Saturdays, October 11, 18, 25, 10-4PM

Saturday, October 25, 2PM

Wednesday, October 29, 7PM

November 15 to December 22

November 15, 12-4PM

Monday, December 1, 6-9PM

Sunday, December 7, 12-2PM

Sunday, December 14, 12-2PM

Oktoberfest!, Freeman Store open 11-5PM

Little Library open

HVI Fall Membership meeting, *History of Wolf Trap National Park*

Used Book Cellar 9th Birthday Bash

Halloween on The Green

Ayr Hill Garden Club Bulb Sale

Vienna at 1775, a panel discussion with refreshments – Free!

Halloween Parade

Special Exhibit: *"Determined: The 400-Year Struggle for Black Equality"*

Americana Used Book Sale and *"Determined"* opening reception

Church Street Stroll and Santa Claus Visit

Santa visits the Freeman Store

Santa visits the Freeman Store

Please visit our website at www.historicviennainc.org for up to date information on the organization, Freeman Store hours, special events and museum exhibits

Freeman Store News

What's New?

As we head into the busiest months of the year, the Freeman Store is fully stocked with all your favorite things.



We're continuously expanding our popular Vienna and Virginia collections, and our latest spotlight is on cheerful, *American-made pennants* crafted in vibrant colors for both Virginia and Vienna fans.

We have more *Blenko Glass* products featuring charming cats and owls from their critters collection – each handcrafted by these experienced glassmakers.



Our new Vienna pillows are a sweet complement to our cozy Vienna blankets.



In preparation of *Historic Vienna, Inc.'s upcoming 50th anniversary* we have a custom magnet and sticker showcasing a playful rendition of the Freeman Store.

+ **Remember:** *HVI Members receive a 10% discount on items purchased at the Freeman Store. (Excludes Used Book Cellar).*

For the latest news on what's new in the Store, be sure to follow us on Instagram *@FreemanStore_Museum*. Or join the *Historic Vienna Inc.* group on Facebook.

Meet the Maker

Many of our items are made by small business owners who are highly skilled in their craft. Meet a few of our favorites and learn a little bit about who they are, what they do and why they're special to us.

Ella B Candles, based in North Carolina, crafts custom soy candles using premium 100% pure soy wax.



Wrapped in simple boxes and tied with a graceful bow, they are ready to gift for that special someone. Their exciting fragrances fill the store and all are phthalate-free. Ella B's neighborhood candle collection adds a playful, personal touch to any space acting like a little love letter to your hometown. Shop with us and see why they're so popular with our community.

Used Book Cellar

Used Book Cellar Celebrates 9 Amazing Years Selling Donated Books!

Mark your calendars to come to the Freeman Store's Used Book Cellar's *9th Birthday Celebration* on Saturday, October 11, from 10 to 4. A large inventory of specially priced books will be available outside (*these prices are amazingly low!*) and of course the Cellar shelves will be stuffed with the usual assortment of genre, all priced to sell.

Come out to celebrate, purchase used books, donate some books, and share in enjoying this special day with refreshments. This is a rain or shine event.

Young Reader Roundup

Our children's section is a treasure trove of stories for youngsters of all ages. You can always rely on the Used Book Cellar to find something fun and exciting for all age groups from toddlers to young adults.

The Cellar couldn't exist without the generous donations from our community. Thank You!



In addition, the Town will host *Halloween on the Green* from 10:30 to 12:30, and Ayr Hill Garden Club will be selling bulbs from 10 to 4.

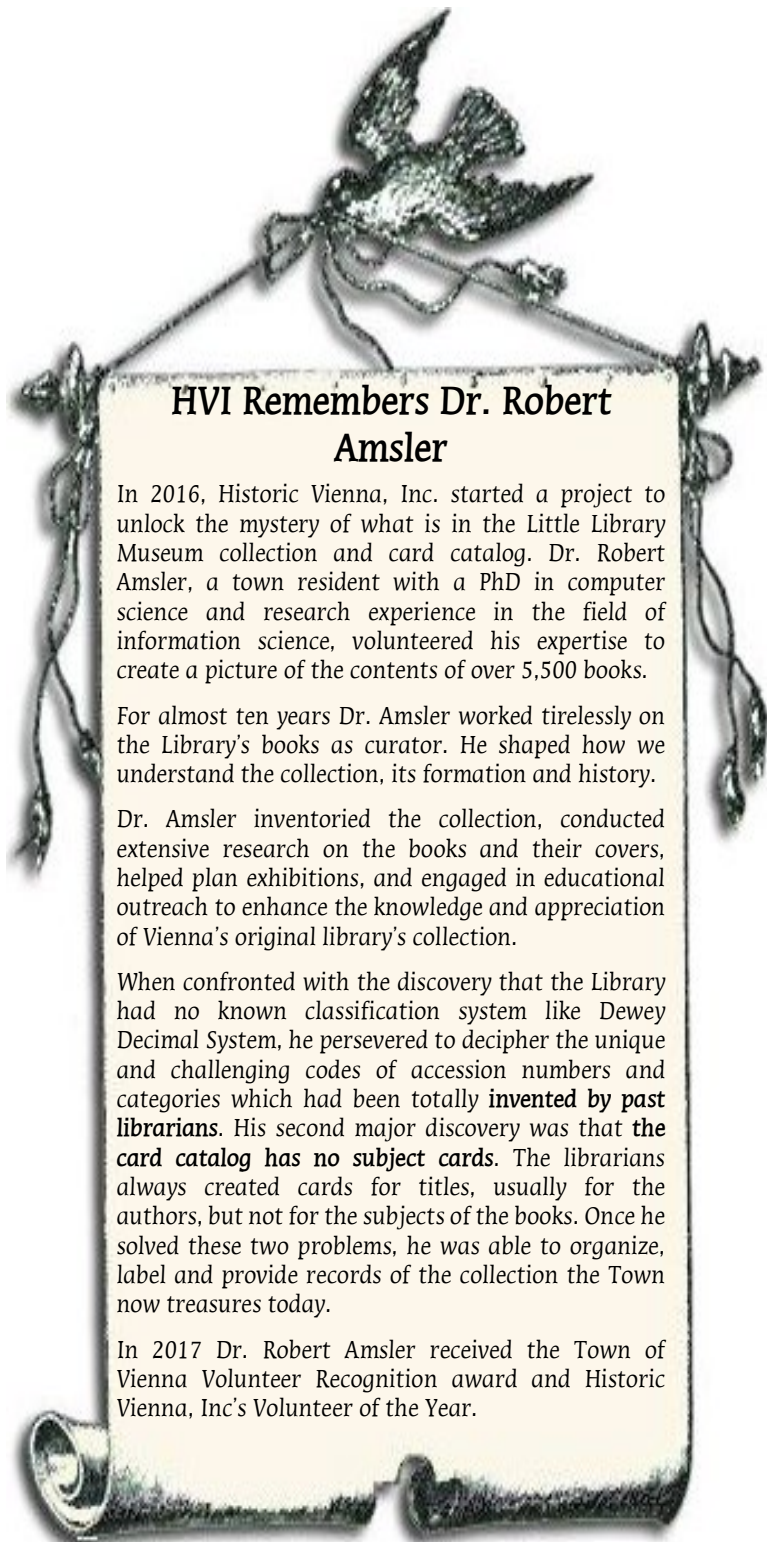
The Used Book Cellar accepts book donations all year round. Please refer to our website for specific information on how and what to donate.

HVI Board News

Members of Historic Vienna, Inc. will vote at the Fall Membership Meeting on October 7, 2025, to elect Board of Directors members whose 3 year terms expire at the end of 2025. The Nominating Committee has proposed that the current incumbents be re-elected. The Board Members up for re-election are: Dee Dee Carter and Katie Newland.

Dee Dee Carter was appointed in May to fill an open position expiring at the end of 2025 on the Board of Directors. Dee Dee grew up in Vienna and is a descendant of one of the oldest families in the Town. She attended Vienna schools: OLGC, Thoreau, and Oakton High School; graduated from American University with a Bachelor's degree in Finance and currently works for St Michaels as an accountant. She is very active in the Town including renaming the Patrick Henry to Vienna/Carter Library, participating on the Committee to rename Wade Hampton Dr to Liberty Lane, and ensuring her family cemetery is maintained by the Fairfax County Park Authority. Since 2021, she volunteered with Historic Vienna working on the Vienna's African-American Trailblazer exhibit with Gloria Runyon and Sylvia Taylor. She is involved in other activities related to Vienna's historic value and achievements.

Katie Newland has been a member of the HVI Board since she was appointed in the spring of 2020. Katie is responsible for overseeing the Little Library Museum and has been an active volunteer assisting with Special Events, the Museum Committee and as a Freeman Store volunteer. In addition to her love for the town of Vienna, her interests include the performing arts and non-profit associations and is a founding member and women's ministry leader of Christ Church Vienna as well as Chair of the Associates Board at Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts.



HVI Remembers Dr. Robert Amsler

In 2016, Historic Vienna, Inc. started a project to unlock the mystery of what is in the Little Library Museum collection and card catalog. Dr. Robert Amsler, a town resident with a PhD in computer science and research experience in the field of information science, volunteered his expertise to create a picture of the contents of over 5,500 books.

For almost ten years Dr. Amsler worked tirelessly on the Library's books as curator. He shaped how we understand the collection, its formation and history.

Dr. Amsler inventoried the collection, conducted extensive research on the books and their covers, helped plan exhibitions, and engaged in educational outreach to enhance the knowledge and appreciation of Vienna's original library's collection.

When confronted with the discovery that the Library had no known classification system like Dewey Decimal System, he persevered to decipher the unique and challenging codes of accession numbers and categories which had been totally **invented by past librarians**. His second major discovery was that **the card catalog has no subject cards**. The librarians always created cards for titles, usually for the authors, but not for the subjects of the books. Once he solved these two problems, he was able to organize, label and provide records of the collection the Town now treasures today.

In 2017 Dr. Robert Amsler received the Town of Vienna Volunteer Recognition award and Historic Vienna, Inc's Volunteer of the Year.

Heard at the Freeman Store and Museum

Russ, a British man, buys about 40 postcards every month or so. He has a brother in England who lost his wife. He knows how lonely that has to be so he mails 2-3 postcards a day to his brother with a thought or topic of interest.

"I want cool stuff, not middle stuff or maybe stuff."
- Boy aged 5 looking to buy a toy

Little girl about 5yrs. old comes in, throws her hands up in the air and says

"This is my favorite place!"

Young girl to her mother:
"What's in the basement?"

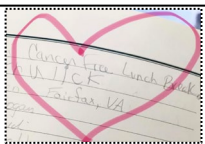
Mother: "Just books."

Young girl: "What?! You never say **JUST** books!!"

Steve, a lawyer from Arlington, bikes the trail and regularly stops in the store to buy strips of candy buttons. We pre-bag his candy and label them **STEVE**. He takes a picture of the baggie to show his friends how nice we are to him.

A woman bought a treasure box with **frogs** because she loves frogs and likes to have them all around her house to remind her family of the acronym they represent -
- Fully Rely On God.

"We are here enjoying a cancer-free lunch break!"



"This place smells just like it did when I was a kid. I came in all the time to buy candy."

- Young man in his early 20s walking into the store, taking a deep breath

About the UBC:

It's so organized!

I could easily spend hours down there.
That is the cleanest, nicest used book store I've ever seen

The Cellar is my happy place

That Cellar is 5-star

Your Cellar is legendary

Wow - new floor and new lights...Fancy!

**"Mom look!
They sell
Blenko!"**

- Adult child to her mother

Barbara, a woman who's a bit lonely and cares for her elderly mother, loves the book cellar and buys large art books because she likes to look at them and imagine she's on vacation.

"When I grow up I want to live here!"

Board member used to buy 100+ of those postcards of all the distant Vienna cities for my church to send in packages during exams to the students at boarding school and college of our church families.

I would always get the nicest comments back. It was something they actually stuck on a bulletin board, wall or other in dorm.

Places signed in guest book:

Indiana, Saudi Arabia, California, South Carolina, Wisconsin, Philly, Spain, Lafayette GA, West VA, New Mexico, Mexico, Nepal, Gaffstown NH, UK, Liverpool NY, Pleasant Grove Utah, Philippines, New Zealand, Oklahoma, Lynchburg VA, Sugarland TX

Our Mission Statement

Historic Vienna, Inc. (HVI), established by the Vienna Town Council on April 6, 1976, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to:

- Preserving and promoting knowledge of Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of historically significant places, events, and persons.
- Educating the public through permanent and revolving exhibits, outreach programs, and publications.
- Enhancing a spirit of community through an awareness of Vienna's past.

Our Programs and Activities

- Sponsor **traditional community events** enhancing Vienna's small town atmosphere (e.g. visits with Santa, Church Street Stroll, Walk on the Hill)
- **Living exhibits** that illustrate the way people lived (e.g. reenactments, demonstrations, entertainment)
- The Freeman Store - experience a **historic country store** selling local history books, Virginia crafts, Vienna souvenirs, and old-fashioned toys and candy
- **Guided tours** of the Original Vienna Library, Freeman Store and museum exhibits
- Encourage **preservation of Vienna's history, historic sites, and artifacts** (Freeman Store and Little Library operations, museum exhibits, antiques appraisals, oral histories, preservation award, Vienna's historic register)

Board of Directors

Historic Vienna, Inc. is led by a 15-member Board of Directors. Three members are appointed by the Town Council and twelve are elected to three-year terms by the Membership at the Fall Membership Meeting. Officers are elected by the Board to one-year terms.

Nancy Moats, Vice President
Mike Berger
Gloria Runyon

Anne Stuntz, President
Katie Newland, Secretary
Dee Dee Carter
Steve Shannon
Leslie Herman, Town Liaison

Leigh Kitcher, Treasurer
Simeon Moats
Sylvia Taylor

Preserve and celebrate Vienna's history – Support Historic Vienna, Inc.

Membership is from January 1 to December 31. There are 2 membership meetings per year.

Now you can renew online! Visit our website: www.historicviennainc.org.

Historic Vienna, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions and membership fees are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

☐ I want to become a member. ☐ I want to renew my membership (renewals are due in January for 2026).

___ Individual (\$25) ___ Family (\$30) ___ Group or Corporate (\$40)

☐ I want to make a \$_____ contribution to Historic Vienna, Inc. (100% tax deductible).

Make your check payable to: **Historic Vienna, Inc.**
PO Box 53
Vienna, VA 22183

Total amount enclosed: \$_____

Name _____

Date _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

Email Address _____

☐ I want to volunteer. (Circle as many as you wish) Little Library Docent – Special Events – Used Book Cellar – Oral Histories

☐ I have skills to share: Exhibits – Research – Graphics – Computer Skills – Other: _____