



# HISTORIC VIENNA INK

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF HISTORIC VIENNA, INC.

FEBRUARY 2026

VOL. XXVII, NO. 1



## HVI Spring Membership Meeting

*“The History of the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad”*

The Spring Membership meeting of Historic Vienna, Inc. will be held on *Tuesday, April 7, at 7:30 in the Town Hall Council Chambers, 127 Center St. S.* There will be a brief business meeting before the program, and this year’s Heritage Preservation Award will be announced.

Paul McCray, NOVA Parks Historian, will talk about the rich history of the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad, illustrated by slides from the 3,000+ photo collection of the rail line he gathered during his 20 years as the W&OD Trail manager and since.

After the program, please join us for cake and other refreshments to celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The HVI Membership meeting is free and open to the public.

### **Black History Month Presentation: Deeply Rooted in the Land**

**Saturday, February 28, 1 pm** Vienna Community Center

## **Special Freeman Store 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sale!**

During our anniversary week only: April 8 to 12

**10% off all Freeman Store merchandise**

(in addition to member discounts),  
does not include Used Book Cellar.

*Thank you for helping us to preserve Vienna’s history.*

## **Historic Vienna, Inc. Celebrates Turning 50!**

On April 6, 1976, Historic Vienna was established by the Town Council. It was incorporated as an independent 501c3 non-profit organization. HVI leases the Freeman Store and Museum buildings and property from the Town and the Town provides support for our programs, events and activities. For 50 years, together we have enhanced our community and preserved our history.

*(Continued on next page)*



**Instagram**

follow us at

**FreemanStore\_Museum**



Join our Facebook page  
**Historic Vienna Inc.**

## Spring Membership Meeting

**Tuesday, April 7, 7:30 PM**

**Town Hall Council Chambers  
127 Center St. S**

**Speaker:**

**Paul McCray**

*“The History of the Washington & Old Dominion Railroad”*

### **Upstairs Museum Exhibit**

*“Making a More Perfect Union”*

### **Hallway Museum Exhibits**

*“The Power of Place” & “Vienna @ 1775”*

### **Throughout the Building**

*“HVI Celebrates 50 Years of Collecting”*

### **Offsite Exhibits**

*Vienna Community Center & Vienna Rexall Drug Center*

### **Membership renewals are due for 2026 now!**

You may renew online through our website or use the form on the back to renew your membership and volunteer to help us preserve history.

*Thank you if you have already renewed!*

### **Inside this Issue**

- P2 – Museum Committee: HVI Celebrates 50, New Exhibits: Making a More Perfect Union, Power of Place, 50 Years of Collecting, Exhibits at VCC
- P3 – Little Library Museum Open; US 250<sup>th</sup> Celebrations: Deeply Rooted, AAUW 250 Program, Patriotic Category at Photography Show, Archer’s Overture, Author Series, Charles Broadwater Day; Special Events: Walk on the Hill,
- P4 – Plant Sale, Calendar of Events; Freeman Store News: What’s New?
- P5 – Used Book Cellar, Young Reader Roundup; Board News
- P6 – About HVI, Membership and Volunteer Form

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](http://www.historicviennainc.org)

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

Email us at: [historicviennava@gmail.com](mailto:historicviennava@gmail.com)

703.938.5187

## From the Museum Committee

### **Historic Vienna Celebrates Turning 50! (Continued)**

Our collaboration began with the acquisition and renovation of the Freeman Store property by the Town. The Freeman Store opened to the public in 1976 and to offset costs and increase security, part of the upstairs was rented as an apartment. With support from Historic Vienna, the Town created the Windover Heights historic district; created the Town's Register of Historic Structures, Sites, and Places; preserved a portion of the 1790 Moorefield house; protected the graves of the Broadwater family; preserved Salsbury Spring, the Town's first water source, as a park; preserved the African American West End cemetery; moved the original Vienna Library building to the Freeman Store property; achieved National Register status for the Freeman Store; created time capsules for Zip Code Day (2/21/80), Centennial Park and soon, Vienna250; and encouraged the community to preserve historical artifacts, places and buildings.

Together, the Town and Historic Vienna have planned and created celebratory and educational programs and events to recognize significant milestones and historic events including Zip Code Day, the Town's Incorporation Centennial and 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the 2011 recreation of the Civil War Battle of Vienna with a ½ size train, Virginia's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Fairfax County's 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and now, Vienna250.

The Freeman Store has been the center of many annual events that bring the community together including the Easter egg roll; Viva! Vienna!; Stories, Songs, and Sprinklers; Liberty Amendments Month; Chillin' on Church; Oktoberfest; Halloween on the Green; and the Church Street Stroll. Historic Vienna has also sponsored the Walk on the Hill through the Windover Heights historic district encouraging an understanding of our past.

To educate the community in our history, Historic Vienna has presented lectures, held historic encampments, craft demonstrations, storytelling, old fashioned music, collected oral histories, led tours of historic sites, and operates the Freeman Store with the atmosphere of a country store. About 25 years ago, the Town converted the upstairs apartment to an exhibit room for rotating exhibits. The 2 museum rooms, which opened in 1976 recreate how the Lydecker and Freeman families might have lived during their ownership. Historic Vienna has created many educational exhibits in the exhibit room, in the downstairs hallway, on the fence around the Victory garden, in the

Rexall Store window; at Lakevale Community Center and on the History Wall at the Community Center.

While memberships, contributions and Freeman Store sales have always provided funds for our programs, we have also held antiques appraisals, flea markets, special events and parlor teas. We are especially grateful for your support of our used book sales, initially only annual and now year long in the Used Book Cellar which enable us to support new initiatives.

*Thank you for enjoying our programs and activities and helping us to preserve Vienna's history.*

### **New Exhibits**

#### ***Making a More Perfect Union***

*(Located upstairs)*

The new exhibit, *Making a More Perfect Union*, celebrates our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It explores our founding and how our amendable constitution allows us to expand, grow and take advantage of new opportunities so that we may enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

#### ***The Power of Place and Vienna @ 1775***

*(Located in the hallway)*

The new exhibit, *The Power of Place – Engaging with Historic Vienna, Inc. over the last half century*, celebrates Historic Vienna's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary through a timeline of events, initiatives and changes that have shaped our community. Come enjoy 5 decades of preserving Vienna's history through key moments and photos. The exhibit, *Vienna @ 1775* describes what Vienna was like on the eve of the American Revolution.

#### ***HVI Celebrates 50 Years of Collecting***

*(Located throughout the building)*

Members of the community have helped us to choose 50 items from our collection to celebrate Historic Vienna's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Each item has a special tag explaining what it is and why it was chosen. Try to find all 50 items!

#### ***Exhibits at Vienna Community Center***

The special exhibits on the *History Wall* (on the way to the auditorium) at the Vienna Community Center, continue to be rotated. Currently we are featuring an exhibit of historic Vienna Postcards, which were kindly shared with us by Antonio Chaves. This Community Center wall is ideal for presenting the history of our community. Please email us at: [historicviennava@gmail.com](mailto:historicviennava@gmail.com) you have an idea for a topic to present.

### ***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 you are interested in a tour or volunteering email [historicviennava@gmail.com](mailto:historicviennava@gmail.com).

## United States 250<sup>th</sup> Celebrations

### ***Deeply Rooted in the Land***

**Saturday, February 28, 1 pm**, Vienna Community Center  
To celebrate Black History Month, please join us for a presentation of "*Deeply Rooted in the Land: African American Legacies in Fairfax County, Virginia.*" Dr. Krystyn Moon, Mary Washington University Professor, will present information on African Americans who owned land in Fairfax County according to the 1860 Census.

### ***AAUW 250<sup>th</sup> Program***

*Liberty's Daughters: Virginia Women and the Revolution*

*An Evening of Dramatic Monologues*

**Saturday, March 7, 7 pm**, Vienna Community Center



Women from the Vienna area will deliver dramatic monologues portraying seven Virginia women of various ages, political persuasions, and socio-economic groups during the American Revolution. Most of the women's contributions have been relatively unknown—until now. The following presenters will bring the American Revolution alive with an immediacy that will engage and inform the audience.

- Linda Colbert, Mayor
- Casey Abbott, Madison High School junior
- Stephanie Allen, Madison High School junior
- Celeste Gregory, AAUW
- Amy Lane, Bards Alley Bookshop
- Nadine James, Louise Archer teacher (ret.), AAUW
- Sylvia Taylor, Louise Archer teacher (ret.)

This free performance, co-sponsored by the Vienna Area AAUW and Vienna250, is part of the Town's celebration and Women's History Month. For more information, contact Kristin Moyer ([kcmoyer65@gmail.com](mailto:kcmoyer65@gmail.com)) or Kris Vajs ([Kristin.vajs@gmail.com](mailto:Kristin.vajs@gmail.com)).

### ***Photography Show Patriotic Category***

In honor of our nation's 250th anniversary, the Vienna Photographic Society has added a special patriotic category

to this year's annual Vienna Photo Show. Entries are accepted March 12 and 13 and will be on display on March 14 and 15 at the VCC. See the Town of Vienna website for more details.

### ***Archer Overture***

The Vienna Community Band has created the *Archer Overture*, in honor of Louise Archer, to celebrate our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday and the band's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It will be performed on March 22, location and time tbd.

### ***Vienna250/Bard's Alley Author Series***

**March 29, 2PM**

Vienna Police Station, Community Room, 215 Center St. S  
Throughout the year, Bard's Alley and the Vienna250 Committee are cohosting a series of author events. The first event, on March 29, celebrates Women's History month with Cassandra Good. In her book, "*First Family: George Washington's Heirs and the Making of America*" Cassandra shows how the outspoken step-grandchildren of Washington played an overlooked, but important role in the development of American society and politics from the Revolution to the Civil War. Copies of her book will be available for purchase and signing. The next event will be on Sunday, May 31 at 2pm, with Derek Baxter, discussing his new book, "*The Forgotten World Way: Exploring the Secret History of the American Revolution, from Spain to India and Back Again*".

### ***Charles Broadwater Day***

*May 17, 2PM at Broadwater Gravesite,*

*Corner of Tapawingo Rd. and Frederick St. SW*

Vienna's most notable Revolutionary era figure, Colonel Charles Broadwater, will be honored along with other locals who fought for our freedom at this special Vienna250 event on May 17. The program will include a brief history of local participation, an honor guard, period music and more.

## Special Events

### ***Walk on the Hill – April 26***

The Walk on the Hill will take place on April 26 from 2 to 5PM, rain or shine. As the streets close, the Windover

Heights homeowners will welcome visitors to stroll the neighborhood to enjoy the landscaped gardens of this historic district. The Vienna Community Band will play



starting at 2PM. Hickory Grove will play old-fashioned music throughout the afternoon in the log cabin at 223 Walnut Lane. Once again, homeowners and Historic Vienna will place signs *“If This House Could Talk...”*, which describe historic and fun information about some of the homes in participating yards.

This year, the Vienna250 Committee will celebrate our nation’s founding with patriotic decorations on all open garden signs, touring Fife and Drum musicians, colonial children’s activities and a Vienna250 selfie station. The committee encourages participants to wear colonial attire.

District III of the National Capital Area Garden Clubs will hold a Flower Show at Green Hedges School. The theme of the show will be celebrating the nation’s 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As usual, Ayr Hill Garden Club will have a table at Salsbury Spring to explain the history of the Spring and its importance to the town. Club members will show visitors the native plants in the park that support the wildlife habitat and native pollinators.

As always, the event is free. An online walking map will be available before the event on the Town website at [www.viennava.gov/walkonthehill](http://www.viennava.gov/walkonthehill). The long-time success of this event is truly a community effort and a wonderful start to spring. Historic Vienna, Inc. would like to acknowledge the support of the residents of the Windover Heights Historic District, and the Town of Vienna Departments of Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Police in making the Walk on the Hill such a pleasurable event. Thank you!

**Plant Sale on the Side Lawn**

On May 9, from 8am to 1pm, on the side lawn of the Freeman Store and Museum, Ayr Hill Garden Club will host their annual plant sale featuring native plants and booths for other garden related non-profit organizations including, Plant NOVA Natives, Mad Grow Inclusion, the Potomac Hosta Society and the Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society.

---

**HVI Calendar of Events**

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

Saturday, February 28, 1-3PM  
Sunday, March 1  
Sunday, March 1, 1-4PM  
Saturday, March 7, 7PM  
March 14 & 15  
Sunday, March 22  
Sunday, March 29, 2PM  
Sunday, April 5, 1-4PM  
Tuesday, April 7, 7:30PM  
Wednesday-Sunday, April 8-12  
Sunday, April 26, 2- 5PM  
Sunday, May 3, 1-4PM  
Saturday, May 9, 8AM-1PM  
Sunday, May 17, 2PM  
Saturday, Sunday, & Monday May 23-25

Deeply Rooted, *Vienna Community Center*  
Freeman Store and Museum resume normal opening hours, 12-4 Wed-Sun  
Little Library open  
AAUW 250 program, *Vienna Community Center*  
Vienna Photography Show, *Vienna Community Center*  
Vienna Band Spring Concert, *location and time tbd*  
Vienna 250/Bard’s Alley Author Series, *Vienna Police Station Community Room*  
Little Library open  
Spring Membership Meeting, *Vienna Town Hall Council Chambers*  
Special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sale, *Freeman Store*  
Walk on the Hill, *Windover Heights Historic District Rain or Shine*  
Little Library open  
Ayr Hill Garden Club Plant Sale and Garden Faire, *at the Freeman Store*  
Charles Broadwater Day, *Vienna 250 event*  
Viva! Vienna!

Please visit our website at [www.historicviennainc.org](http://www.historicviennainc.org) for up to date information on the organization, Freeman Store hours, special events and museum exhibits

**Freeman Store News**

**Freeman Store reopens March 1<sup>st</sup> - What’s New?**

We’re getting ready to reopen in March and can’t wait to share what’s new!

We’re restocking your favorite items and bringing in fresh gift options, including America250 celebrations, a new puzzle line, and handmade gifts that spark joy.



### ***Special Freeman Store 50th Anniversary Sale!***

During our anniversary week only: April 8 to 12, 10% off all Freeman Store merchandise (in addition to member discounts), does not include Used Book Cellar.

Open hours are Wednesday-Sunday 12noon-4PM. Follow us on Instagram at *freemanstore\_museum* or our Facebook group *Historic Vienna, Inc.*

✦ **Remember:** *HVI Individual and Family Members receive a 10% discount on items purchased at the Freeman Store.*

## ***Used Book Cellar***

Our Freeman Store and Museum Used Book Cellar celebrates 10 years selling used books. Your generous contributions have been greatly appreciated and the shoppers continue to enjoy shopping with us. Our recent Super Bowl bag sale is one way our team of volunteers offers our thanks for supporting Historic Vienna, Inc's main fundraiser.

Look forward to shopping with us when we reopen on March 1. Our collection of available books celebrating America's 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence will be available at our usual affordable pricing! We plan to highlight some special books with a review for all to read. Also continuing, the Cellar will offer monthly specials. *March will feature all arts, collectibles, and gardening books for half price.*

Our volunteers are very hardworking and love hearing from you, especially regarding specific requests for your favorite titles. Please ask our storekeepers to add that special topic or title you are seeking. Just last week a gentleman asked for a McCullough title and indeed we were successful in locating the volume! Thank you Vienna, thank you Used Book Cellar shoppers, you have placed the Freeman Store and Museum Used Book Cellar on the map!

### ***Young Reader Roundup***

Let your child beat the winter cold by snuggling up with a cozy book! Winter is the perfect time to get them hooked on chapter books, and we often have complete sets of popular series for eager readers. Come browse our vast collection of quality, gently used children's books.



The Used Book Cellar accepts book donations all year round. Please refer to our website for specific information on what and how to donate <https://historicviennainc.org/used-book-cellar/>.

## ***HVI Board News***

In December, the Board appointed **Lana Bian** to fill a vacant position on the Historic Vienna, Inc. Board of Directors that expires in 2028. Lana grew up in Southwestern Michigan. She graduated from Hope College in Holland, Michigan with a bachelor's degree in international relations, with a minor in economics. She has worked in international education and development, telecom, and federal government contracting. Currently she is an independent marketing and communications consultant. Lana has lived in Vienna area since 1986, moving to the town in 1989. She has three grown children, all of whom graduated from James Madison High School. She has been active in multiple non-profit organizations, including Historic Vienna. Since 2022, Lana has attended numerous HVI events and has volunteered at the Little Library Museum and plans on helping with our exhibits, special events and social media.

### ***HVI Remembers Jon Vrana***

Last month, Jon Vrana passed away. We greatly appreciate the many contributions he has made to Historic Vienna, both as a volunteer and a Board Member from 2011 to 2024. His many contributions include: helping to plan and participate in the reenactment of the Secession Vote on the Freeman Store porch, participating in Vienna's Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, writing and directing a play for Vienna's 125th Celebration: "*The Incorporation of Vienna, Virginia 1890 - A Short Play*" on the Fairfax County Showmobile, casting Vienna dignitaries as the performers, engaging the community and especially children as a reenactor, playing music and telling stories on the Freeman Store porch and on occasion playing Abram Lydecker, leading the creation of new exhibits with the Museum Committee (Roads to Rails to Trails in 2013, Country Store in 2014, History of Agriculture in Vienna and Northern Virginia in 2016, Fairfax County's 275th in 2017, World War I in 2018, Vienna in the 1950s in 2019, Vienna in the 1960s in 2020), and much more..



### 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.

**Time to Renew Now!**

- |                             |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Nancy Moats, Vice President | Anne Stuntz, President      | Leigh Kitcher, Treasurer |
| Mike Berger                 | Katie Newland, Secretary    | Dee Dee Carter           |
| Simeon Moats                | Lana Bian                   | Steve Shannon            |
| Sylvia Taylor               | Gloria Runyon               |                          |
|                             | Leslie Herman, Town Liaison |                          |

### 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](http://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** **Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
**Vienna, VA 22183**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Email Address

I want to volunteer. (Circle as many as you wish) Little Library Docent – Freeman Store Special Events – Book Sale – Oral Histories

I have skills to share: Exhibits – Research – Graphics –Computer Skills – Other: \_\_\_\_\_