

VIENNA RECORD



A bi-monthly newsletter of the Town of Vienna, Maine

VOLUME XV, NO. 6

DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS IN AND AROUND OUR HOMES: WATER TESTING

This will be the first in a series of brief articles, with recommendations, about environmental risks at our homes in Vienna. I shall discuss the most common risks first, and how one assesses or measures them. In this article, I talk about when, how and for what you should consider testing your home water supply.

There is, of course, no public water supply going to Vienna homes. The closest we get to that is the Kimball Pond Road public spring, which is tested several times a year by its stewards. Thus, all of us are responsible for assuring the safety of our own home water; our water sources are from springs, or drilled or dug wells, unless we live without running water.

So what should you worry about, what should you test for, and how often?

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FROM THE TOWN SELECTMEN

September 20, 2011

Present: Dodi Thompson, Chris Smith, Brian Smith, Linwood Meader, Jr., Marti Gross

1) Reviewed and signed warrant #18.

2) Reviewed financial statements from Treasurer.

3) Linwood reports that he has finished getting the Davis Road and the Mason Road ready for the winter season.

September 27, 2011

Present: Dodi Thompson, Chris Smith, Brian Church, Linwood Meader, Jr., John Archard, Steve Lilly

1) Linwood received a letter from E.L. Vining stating that the Town owed them for a couple of loads of material from back in April. After reviewing warrants from April and May, the decision was made to give the letter to Marti for further investigation.

2) John Archard came in to inform us that a section of fabric that holds the road in place on the top of the Davis

Road is showing. He is very concerned that this will be a problem if it is not fixed before winter plowing begins. We assured him that it will be taken care of right away.

3) Dodi reported that the 2011 Tree Growth Roster has been completed and mailed to the State Revenue Office.

4) Reviewed and dispersed mail.

October 4, 2011

(Continued on page 2)

VIENNA

MINUTES FROM SELECTMEN'S MEETINGS (FROM FRONT PAGE)

Present: Chris Smith, Brian Church, Linwood Meader, Jr., Marti Gross, Barry Emery

1) Reviewed and signed #19.

2) Linwood reports that it has been too wet to work on any of the Town's gravel/dirt roads. As soon as it dries out, he will be working up on the Mountain Road.

3) Opened dispersed mail.

October 11, 2011

Present: Chris Smith, Brian Church, Marti Gross

1) Opened and dispersed mail.

2) Had some discussion on how the 2011 money flow was much better than last year.

October 18, 2011

Present: Chris Smith, Brian Church, Marti Gross, Linwood Meader, Jr.

1) Reviewed and signed Warrant #20.

2) Linwood reports that the hill up on the end of the Davis road has been repaired. He also reports that work on the Mountain and the Ithiel Gordon roads will be completed soon.

3) Reviewed financial statements from the Treasurer.

November 1, 2011

Present: Dodi Thompson, Chris Smith, Brian Church, Linwood Meader, Jr., Marti Gross

1) Reviewed and signed warrant #21.

2) Brian brought in \$915.00 of chimney cleaning donations. It was agreed to accept the money for the Fire Department's Operating Expense account.

3) Reviewed and dispersed mail.

4) Read, accepted and signed off on the Town's audit from Stephen T. Hopkins for year ending December 31, 2010.

5) Linwood reports that he will be putting up sand and salt for the winter, beginning on Wednesday, November 2.

6) The selectmen voted to extend our contract with Waste Management Disposal (who receives all of our garbage and bulky pickup.items) for the next calendar year. The only increase was the tipping fee for garbage which went up by \$1.50 per ton.

November 8, 2011 (Election Night)

Present: Dodi Thompson, Chris Smith, Brian Church

Selectmen met briefly for a general discussion of the week's events.

1) Reviewed and dispersed mail. Dodi and Chris then returned to help finish up the election.

November 15, 2011

Present: Dodi Thompson, Chris Smith, Brian Church, Linwood Meader, Jr., Marti Gross

1) Reviewed and signed warrant #22

2) Selectmen received a proposal from Luke Olsen (D.B.A. Loose Ends) to extend his mowing contract for the next two (2) seasons (2012 and 2013) at the same rate as 2011. Voted unanimously to accept this proposal. Dodi will contact Luke.

3) Reviewed the bank reconciliation report from treasurer, Marti Gross.

4) Reviewed and dispersed mail.



GREETINGS FROM THE VIENNA POST OFFICE!

I hope everyone is enjoying sending and receiving holiday cards and gifts. This tradition helps us all to stay in touch with friends and relatives through the years. The Vienna Post Office has a nice selection of decorative Ready Post envelopes and boxes—the recipients enjoy receiving colorful packages, and those of us processing the mail are cheered up by them as well! If you bring your parcels in to the Vienna Post Office we put beautiful stamps on them instead of the boring “meter strips”. These stamps are rather rare and will have value later on—even when cancelled. FYI: wreath size boxes are no longer available at any Post Office (except for 2010 leftovers). The closest thing we have is a 17”x17”x16” Ready Post box for \$5.49.

We have a great selection of interesting stamps on hand—stamps make a beautiful, useful, and inexpensive gift. All of the 1st Class stamps are issued as “Forever” stamps now. The rates may be going up in January, but the “Forever” stamps will automatically increase in value and not need an additional one or two cent stamp added. (Buy now!)

The “Free Stuff” display has been very popular. We need more donations to it. This is the perfect place to give those nice gifts that have spent enough time hanging out at your house a new home. They could become the perfect gift for someone else to give this Christmas season.

While you’re at the Post Office bringing (or taking) objects for the “Free Stuff” display, (and the free recycled magazines shelf), check out the new 3’x5’ photograph of Vienna’s “Clubhouse at the Top of the World”. Photographer John Orcutt of the Schoolhouse Gallery in Kingfield generously donated this awesome art piece to the Vienna Post Office. The autumn foliage is at its peak, and the foreground captures the incredible maroons, mauves and reds of the blueberry barrens in the fall.

Some of you may have heard the rumor—our beloved carrier Walt Williams is retiring! We have various back-up carriers helping out now and until we have a new Rural Carrier in place. Walt will be staying on until the end of the year to be sure all of the Christmas mail gets delivered! It has been a pleasure working with Walt all these years. We’ll miss him.

Vienna Postmaster Audrey Nichols

293-9332

7-12, 1:15-4 and 7-10:30 on Saturday

ONGOING EVENTS

- **Mount Vernon Community Center Café** on Saturdays from 9:30-11:30 am. Coffee, food & conversation!
- **Men's Breakfast** on Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 am at the Mount Vernon Community Center. Small donation appreciated.
- The 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, **McGraffey Mountain Woodcarvers** meet from 6:00-8:30 pm at the Vienna Community Center. New and experienced carvers welcome. For More information about the meetings please call Norma Wing at 293-3725 or Ed Beach at 685-4779.
- **Creation Station**, a faith-based, arts-based after school program of the North Vienna UMC meets every Wednesday during the school year and is open to all children grades K-6. For more info call Laura Church at 293-3892
- **The Youth Group at North Vienna United Methodist Church** meets most Sunday afternoons. It is open to youth grade 6 and up. For more info call Laura Church at 293-3892.



Mark your calendars!

DECEMBER 2011/JANURARY 2012 EVENTS

- **Mt. Vernon Christmas Tree Lighting** - Mt. Vernon Community Center - Saturday, December 3 - 6:30 pm-Story for Children - 7:00 pm-Tree Lighting/Santa and Mrs. Claus' arrival - Hot Chocolate and Cider provided -Bring Cookies to Share
- The Vienna Baptist Church is holding a **Lighting of the Christmas Tree** on The 9th of December at 6 in the evening. We would like to extend an Invitation to anyone that would like to join us in some Caroling and possible refreshments.
- **Santa Claus is coming to town!** - Saturday, December 10th 1-4 p.m. at Mill Stream Grange, Rt. 41 (Town House Road) - Refreshments! Games! Fun! - A community Christmas tradition since 1998 - snow date: Saturday December 17th - Please bring your own camera.
- **Cookie Walk** - Saturday, December 10th from 1-3 p.m. at the North Vienna United Methodist Church, 572 Tower Road - Come and choose from a wide variety of homemade cookies and treats! A dozen of your choice in a lovely Christmas box for \$4.00. The coffee pot will be on if you'd like to sit and visit and enjoy some taste and music of the season! Sponsored by the Wednesday Morning Women's Group. Proceeds to benefit a mission project
- Make this the year . . . join us for the **Christmas Eve Service!** - North Vienna United Methodist Church, 572 Tower Road - December 24th at 7:00 p.m. - Candles, Carols, and the Christmas Story - Everyone is welcome!

VIENNA



Santa Claus is coming to town!

Saturday, December 10th
1-4 p.m.

at Mill Stream Grange

Rt. 41 (Town House Road)

Refreshments! Games! Fun!

A community Christmas tradition since 1998

snow date: Saturday December 17th
(Please bring your own camera.)



The Vienna Baptist Church is holding a **Lighting of the Christmas Tree** on The 9th of December at 6 in the evening.

We would like to extend an Invitation to anyone that would like to join us in some Caroling and possible refreshments.



Dodi Thompson
Chris Smith
Brian Church

SELECTMEN MEETINGS

1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month 6:30 p.m. at the Town House



Vienna Town House - Rte. 41, Vienna, ME

WORK SESSIONS:

2nd Tuesday at 6:30 pm

4th Tuesday at 6:30 pm

5th Tuesday at 6:30 pm (as needed)

TOWN OF VIENNA, ME
PO Box 38
VIENNA, ME 04360
☎ 207 293-3087
www.viennamaine.org

Vienna Planning Board MEETINGS

The Vienna Planning Board meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Vienna Town House Route 41, Vienna, Maine

For more information, call Waine Whittier, Chair at 293-2072 or Creston Gaither, Secretary at 293-2909

www.viennamaine.org

THE INNKEEPER AND SECRET SANTA
A Very Local Play
FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

written by Pat Onion

actors: MUFFY FLOYD, CAROL HEDDEN, LUKE OLSON,
QUIMBY ROBINSON, DON WARREN

Music within the play: CAROL HEDDEN

Bell Ringer: Iris Dunn **Juggler:** Sam Onion
Plus MUSIC WITH STEVE GARTON



Saturday December 10,
2 and 7 p.m.

Mt. Vernon Community
Center

Admission Is Free



VOLUNTARY DONATIONS ACCEPTED FOR THE MT. VERNON FOOD BANK

VIENNA

Cookie Walk!



Saturday, December 10th from 1-3 p.m.
at the North Vienna United Methodist
Church, 572 Tower Road.

Come and choose from a wide variety
of homemade cookies and treats!

A dozen of your choice in a lovely
Christmas box - \$4.00

The coffee pot will be on if you'd like to
sit and visit and enjoy some taste and
music of the season!

Sponsored by the Wednesday Morning
Women's Group. Proceeds to benefit a
mission project.

COMMUNITY SHOP & SWAP

*f you have stuff that is not
trash but is in your way, it
is now possible to have it
posted on the Vienna web-
site and in this newsletter
at no cost to you. Check
here for things that people
in Vienna may want to sell,
swap or barter. Just send a
description of your item
along with contact informa-
tion to Laura Church at
293-3892 or
church5@fairpoint.net.*

Make this the year . . .

Join us for the Christmas Eve Service

North Vienna United Methodist Church, 572 Tower Road

December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

Candles, Carols, and the Christmas Story - Everyone is welcome!

2 double rolls of a
pretty floral....blue and
pink flowers. Would be
great for a small bath-
room or a hall. \$5. will
take them.

5 double rolls of a
lovely blue with some
shiny embellish-
ment...beautiful. (I was
going to paper the
rental house but de-
cided we would sell it
so did not do it.) Asking
\$30 for all 5 rolls. It
was expensive paper.

Contact Marilyn Bean
at HMBean1@aol.com

FROM THE EDITOR

Have any news or advertisements for the **Vienna Record**? You may email articles etc. to me at church5@fairpoint.net or mail them to PO Box 146, Vienna ME 04360. The fee schedule per issue for advertisements is as follows:

1/8 page	\$8.00
1/4 page	\$14.00
1/2 page	\$26.00
full page	\$50.00

Checks may be mailed to me made payable to "Town of Vienna."

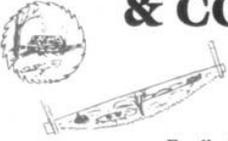
Please note that all items or articles for the February/March 2012 issue of the *Vienna Record* need to be e-mailed by Jan. 24th.

Laura Church

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Buying products and services locally will help develop the economic vitality of the community.

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 Chiropractor with 25 Years of Experience

Office at Flying Pond Farm
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Call 293 2650 for free consultation.



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take the work out of
 holiday entertaining and gift
 giving with our appetizers,
 dinners-to-go, soups, pastas and
 sauces, party platters, cakes, pies
 and pastries!

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 shari's best pies
 kennebec coffee cake
 holiday cookies
 rugelach, baklava and biscotti
 carrot cake
 coconut cake

also featuring
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 maple syrup gift baskets and gift
 certificates

winter hours
 open wednesday through sunday, 7 am
 to 2;30 pm serving breakfast and
 lunch including creative omelets,
 panini, salads, soups, daily spe-
 cials and pastries to eat in or
 take-out. monthly dinner and live
 music; call for reservations

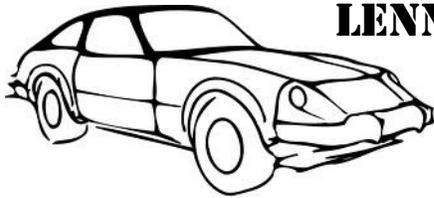
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- AC recharge
- small engine repair
- transportation available

News From
Vienna Historical Society

Where Have All the
 Soldiers Gone
 Civil War Veterans
 of
 Vienna and Mount Vernon, Maine



by
 Carol J. O'Connell
 Vienna Historical Society

FIRST:

We have published a new book, which would make a good Holiday gift for someone you know.

Men who served in the Civil War and were born in, lived in, or buried in Vienna or Mount Vernon are honored in this book. A brief genealogical sketch of each is given, along with his service record. As much as possible, their post-war lives were traced and recorded, and photographs were included. Paperback, 86 pages, 8 1/2" x 11". \$15.00 each.

SECOND

SEE OUR AWESOME NEW WEB SITE AT:

WWW.VIENNAHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS: WATER TESTING (FROM PAGE 1)

The most common contaminant are coliforms, *Escherichia coli* and related bacteria found in human or wild or domestic animal feces. Less commonly, *Salmonella* or *Shigella* and the Norovirus species may be transmitted in a similar way, and even less frequently, the parasites *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia* (“beaver fever” and others). Preventing water supply contamination isn’t rocket science; we all know the septic system should be downhill and separated from the well. But in spring flooding, especially when much of the ground is still frozen, surface contamination can occur. Grazing cattle or other domestic animal facilities can pose a risk. Surface water sources (springs and often dug wells) are more likely to be contaminated than drilled wells, because it is easier for the poop water to get in. The consequences of contaminated water are usually mild in healthy adults, nothing or diarrhea. But the young and the old are more susceptible to more severe symptoms and bacterial spread to the blood stream (sepsis), hence causing complications and sometimes death. You can’t rely on clarity, taste or smell to know contamination has occurred, because it only takes microscopic quantities. So you should test your water when you move in to your new house, anytime you think the well may have been exposed (a flood, a new barnyard nearby, etc) and probably every 5 or so years, because even with a drilled well protected somewhat by its casing, drawing water from a well can open up new water channels over time.

Testing is relatively easy: run your water for a few minutes to clear the system and take a sample midstream in a sample bottle the testing lab supplies, refrigerate it until you mail (not over a weekend) or deliver it. Ask for “coliforms”, and you usually can get “nitrates/nitrites” with it for the same price (about \$30). Nitrates/nitrites are breakdown products of bacteria (we use them to screen urine samples for bacterial infections, on those dipsticks, as some of you may know), but also can come from non-fecal lawn or commercial fertilizer. The report should come with a clear “positive” or “insignificant” answer within a week or so.

And while you are collecting and sending that water sample, consider adding, for an additional price, one or two addi-

tional tests. We live in an area with lots of granite bedrock, which can contain arsenic. It is the inorganic type that is the problem, in contrast to the organic type found in lobsters and other seafoods. Arsenic poisoning is a cause of premature dementia (looks like Alzheimer’s disease), but only the inorganic type. Several times I’ve found an elevated total arsenic level in a patient only to find on further testing that it was the organic type from their diet, and not in their water or an issue. That’s an additional \$20.

Finally, if there are young children in the house, knowing if you have fluoride in your water is helpful. They need it badly and few places in Maine have it. So you could save yourself some money over time by knowing you have enough in your water without having to buy them supplements, which they will otherwise need. You can get all 3 for \$60-\$70 plus a bunch of other elements, like copper, iron, manganese, chromium, lead, uranium, radon, and so on; but these are either very rarely a problem or better tested for in other ways, which I’ll go into in future articles.

I use and like the State of Maine Public Health Lab for this testing (<https://www.informe.org/cgi-bin/shopping/cart.pl?catalogPage=pageTwo>) because I know and trust their people and systems. But there are many private, certified water testing labs in Maine (<http://www.informe.org/hetl/>).

Next time, I’ll discuss other potential environmental hazards in our homes. But in the meantime, know for sure that smoking tobacco anywhere and especially in your home endangers not only you, but your family as well, more than any of the risks I’ve discussed above. And home fires from stoves, faulty wiring, and careless care of flammable substances come in a close second. Please avoid those, if you do nothing else.

Feel free to call me if I can help you.

Dan Onion, MD
Vienna Health Officer
293-2076

TOWN OF VIENNA, ME

Selectmen, Assessers and Overseers of the Poor

Dodi Thompson Chris Smith Brian Church

Treasurer Marti Gross

Town Clerk Connie Smith

Tax Collector Connie Smith

Road Commissioner Linwood Meader, Jr.

Fire Chief & Warden Steve Lilley

Health Officer Daniel K. Onion

Animal Control Officer Donald Tibbetts

**Plumbing Inspector &
Code Enforcement Officer** John Archard

Addressing Officer Laura Reville/Roger Reville

SAD #9 Representative Helen Wilkey

Cemetery Sexton Ernestine Emery



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Vienna, ME 04360