

Supplementary Budget Request for Vienna 250

Throughout the year, the Town of Vienna will be celebrating the nation's 250th anniversary. The Town's designated organizer for its activities, Vienna 250, has already put on several highly successful events, including the visit of the Mobile Revolutionary History Museum; a scholarly presentation on what Vienna was like on the eve of the War for Independence ("Vienna@1775"); a Halloween parade Liberty Bell float, and the public showing of the screener for the Ken Burns' new film on the American Revolution. Much more is planned, including an historical encampment, a celebration of Charles Broadwater day, and a town-wide picnic and concert on the 4th of July. None of these events, of course, can be put on without a great deal of volunteer effort. We are happy to report that our residents have stepped up to provide the sweat equity needed to put on memorable events. But volunteer hours are not enough – money is also needed, to buy supplies, pay overtime workers, and rent equipment.

To date, HVI has covered almost \$11K in Vienna 250 expenses. This is a major part of HVI's operating budget – indeed, it represents the vast majority of the \$15K in annual Town support that HVI has received annually in the recent past. If Vienna 250 is to fulfill its desire for a fulsome celebration, more funds are needed.

It is important to put this one-time funding request in an historical context. Important civic anniversaries only come around every few years. In the past, the Town and its citizens have made important contributions to the community in important anniversary years. The Freeman Store restoration, the caboose, and the train station restoration are only three examples of Town-funded initiatives that were tied to special year celebrations. The year 2026 is our generation's turn to continue this tradition.

Attached is a spreadsheet detailing Vienna 250's supplementary budget request¹. Essentially, we are requesting an additional \$50K, in addition to the approximately \$12K already spent. In addition, should the Town want to expand its 4th of July celebrations to include a Town-picnic, and additional \$12K would be needed.

¹ Based on discussions with Town's staff, the most efficient way to make the funds available would be for the Town Council to authorize a supplementary distribution to HVI. HVI would then be responsible for finding vendors, suppliers, and the like, thus relieving the Town Staff of this burden.

Some of the events and activities requiring additional funding include:

- Light Poll Banners: This request consists of Vienna 250 banners along Maple Avenue for the light fixture brackets already funded. They would be hung as soon as the brackets and the banners are ready, and would be up through 2026.
- Challenge Coins: These coins are collector mementos which would be given to major volunteers and important contributors
- Time Capsule: An approximately two cubic foot time capsule that would be buried on the 4th. Residents would apply to submit certain items, which would be reviewed by an historical committee for acceptance.
- Historic Encampment: This would take place as part of the Annual Walk on the Hill, and would feature historical re-enactors and their camp on the grounds of Green Hedges School.
- Noted Author Event: A noted American Revolutionary Historian would be invited to speak about his/her book.
- Vienna 250 license plates: A bespoke license plate design featuring the Vienna 250 logo would be purchased from the state. The cost covers the initial DMV plate set-up. Orders of 350 waive the design fee; and all sales after that include a \$10 contribution to the town.
- Vienna 250 coloring book: The PIO office is at work developing this colonial/revolutionary themed coloring book, featuring local sites and people, which would be a Town giveaway for small children.

The Vienna 250 steering committee appreciates the Town's consideration of this matter. We also want the Council to know that we are actively seeking other sources of funds, including donations from citizens and businesses, as well as other government funding. The steering committee would be happy to meet with you to provide more information and answer questions.