



Winter  
1997-98

*"The rattled-tailed serpents have gone into council,  
For the god of the ice-caves —  
From his home where the white down of wind in the northland  
Lies spread out forever —  
Breathes over our country  
And breaks down the pine-boughs."*

"Thus say the grandfathers of Zuni Indian children, when the snow storms whiten the distant mountains and mesas. For them, next to autumn, winter is the merriest season of the year — a time of rest, festivity and ceremonial." - Frank Hamilton Cushing, 1882

## Moose Muddled by Deep Freeze



For several days following the Ice Storm of '98, a Vienna Mountain moose could be seen wandering in circles – sometimes no longer than her own length, other times several hundred feet in diameter – walking into bushes, stumbling over stone walls and in general acting very confused. She also seemed very reluctant to enter any wooded area, and spent all the daylight hours, at least, in the blueberry fields.

Concerned observers of this sad creature contacted Inland Fish and Wildlife Warden Kevin Anderson who came up a day or so later with a covey of animal biologists and other specialists. After extended observations, they concluded she was probably not suffering from brain worm: her ears were not back, she was not shaking or tipping her head, her agility was not greatly impaired, and she seemed to be aware of the

observers. A more likely explanation for her behavior, they felt, was that she'd been struck on the head by a falling, ice-covered limb and might be slightly concussed and her vision might be somewhat impaired. This could also account for her disinclination to enter wooded areas, although this behavior seemed to be lessening.

Since she was in no way a threat or nuisance to the public, it was agreed that she would best be permitted to convalesce at her own pace; she was later observed browsing on tree branches; two days later she could not be found, having left the area under her own steam!

## Mountaineers Arrive

by Ervin Bean



The "Vienna Mountaineers" have arrived; a newly formed snowmobile club that has been accepted by the Maine Snowmobile Association, effective last November.

The officers are Lenny Meader, President; John Derbyshire, Vice President; Barbie Derbyshire, Treasurer; Ervin Bean, Secretary; Richard Meader, Trail Master; Glen Crogan, Safety Officer; and Verne Bickford and Herschel Rackliff, Jr., Board of Directors.

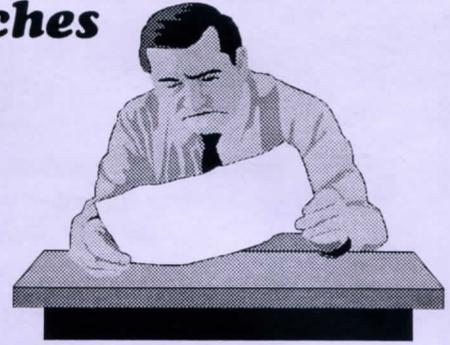
Meetings are held Wednesday nights at the Vienna Fire Station. All interested persons are welcome.

For more information, call Lenny at 293-9271, Barbie at 293-2343 or Ervin at 293-2612.

**Remember - Subscriptions to Vienna Voices normally expire with the Winter issue. Have you renewed yours? Best do it right away!**

# New Flood Maps Might Mean Headaches

by Creston Gaither, Secretary  
Vienna Planning Board



If you own a structure near any of Vienna's ponds, low areas, or McGurdy Stream, you should get down to the Town House to see the new flood hazard maps. It might save you some **MONEY**.

The federal government first provided Vienna with flood hazard maps in 1974, and the maps haven't changed much since then. Vienna has also passed — and amended — the flood management ordinance the government recommended. This makes federal flood insurance available to any Vienna landowner. But if you're within one of the flood hazard zones shown on the maps your bank may **REQUIRE** you to have this insurance. Rates run about \$300 to \$400 a year.

The flood hazard zones are areas which the mapmakers found vulnerable to a "100 year flood," meaning a flood or storm so severe that it's likely to occur only once every 100 years or so.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency — FEMA — has recently revised its maps for Vienna, and their preliminary maps will soon be on display at the Town House. The biggest change is that an impressive engineering study has been made to determine the limits of the flood hazard area around Flying Pond.

The public has 90 days in which to comment on the maps. The Planning Board has already reviewed the maps and suggested a number of changes. Most of these are minor — street names and so forth — but we also noted that the flood hazard zone shown around Parker Pond seems to include a good bit more land than it should. FEMA met with us recently and seemed to agree, and we expect them to change the maps. But if they don't, shorefront owners could end up being required to buy expensive insurance they don't need.

So, stop by and see if there are other changes needed on these maps. The Planning Board is scheduled to meet the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m., and there may be other times when the maps can be seen. If you have questions about the maps or ordinance you can try me or call Lou Sidell or Sue Baker at the State Planning Office, at **1-800-662-4545**.

---

## What in the world are "STAMPS BY MAIL"?

by Jeannie Harris

For no additional cost and with increased convenience, Post Office customers can order and pay for stamps from the comfort of their home or office.

**STAMPS BY MAIL** order forms are available at the Vienna Post Office. This special order envelope requires no postage, is pre-addressed and contains clear instructions on how to complete it.

The size of each Post Office is determined not only by the number of deliveries but also by the amount of revenue it generates. Since Vienna is a rural town without large businesses to draw from, we rely on our household customers.

We are very thankful to our summer residents who continue to purchase stamps throughout the year by using our **STAMPS BY MAIL**. If any of our summer residents are unaware of the **STAMPS BY MAIL** program, we encourage them to try it.

Thank you for letting us serve you.

## CLERK'S NOTES by Jo-Ann Pillsbury

The annual Town Meeting and elections are scheduled for March 14, 1998. Elections are being held in the Vienna Town House from 8:15 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. The Meeting will reconvene at 2:00 p.m. at the Cape Cod School Gym,

Nomination papers went out December 19th and are due back on January 28, for filing. The offices are: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Selectmen; Tax Collector; Treasurer; Town Clerk/Excise; and Road Commissioner. All positions are for a one year term,

Due to the serious rabies epidemic here in Maine, Rabies Clinics are being held here and in surrounding communities more often. Please have your family pets inoculated against this fatal virus. Practice extreme caution around any wild mammal and don't approach strange domestic animals wandering onto your property.

If a dog is wearing a square silver Maine tag with a '98 sticker, you can be assured that the pet is safe, as a valid, current rabies shot is required to get a license. Dog licensing (6 months or older) is due by January 31st with a current rabies slip; dogs capable of producing young are \$7.50; neutered or spayed are \$4.00; the neutered/spayed certificate needs to be shown the first time you license, for the record.

# *But I did my homework already!*

by Susan Linn

I'm not looking forward to my daughter's return to school tomorrow. Mostly, I'm not looking forward to more homework. Homework was never easy for me. I was the kid whose papers ended up in tatters, splattered with chocolate. I was the one who misinterpreted assignments and read the wrong chapters. But I persevered determinedly, year after academic year, and almost got my work done on time....

Still, I assumed that I and my shortcomings would never again have to grapple with formal education. When I walked my daughter into school on the first day of kindergarten, I ran straight into a wall of forgotten foibles...."At least," I breathed to myself, "it's only kindergarten. Thank goodness she won't have homework."

That first Friday, my daughter, bursting with importance, met me at her classroom door. "I have homework!" she announced proudly. "Homework?" I repeated, fighting off a rising tide of nausea. "How exciting....Just like a big kid," I added. She nodded and explained to me seriously that on Monday she had to bring in something from nature that was alive. A million thoughts were running through my head — memories of waiting until the last minute, not having enough time, forgetting to take whatever it was with me the next day.

As we walked home, swinging hands, I fretted about the task ahead. Determined to set a good example, I said brightly, "Let's find something now, and then you won't have to think about it for the rest of the weekend." My daughter was agreeable. "What would you like to bring in?" I asked, my mind flitting to flowers, leaves and weeds. My daughter thought for a minute. "A slug," she announced.

"Are you sure?" I said, unable to be convinced that I wanted to be the mother "Yep," she said happily, and trotted into the porch contemplating the once and fu-

We set out for the back yard and helped her shovel a slug and some dirt. There, I gulped with relief. "It's done. mentally patted myself on the back.

Late Sunday afternoon, I glanced end on our kitchen counter. He didn't Opening the lid gingerly, I poked him ment. Even I knew something alive from was philosophical. "Probably we should

The sun was rather low to the ho-

I was hesitant. "Couldn't we find some other kind of live thing?" I asked, willing her to settle on a leaf or a flower. "How about a beetle," she suggested. We started digging in the ground and after a couple of tries, found an obliging beetle. "We should put dirt in first," my daughter suggested. I disagreed, afraid the beetle would scuttle away. "No, let's scoop him up and then add the dirt," I said. My daughter was doubtful but compliant.

She snared the beetle, then dumped him in a container. I hastily poured in a hefty mound of slightly wet earth. My daughter was frantic. "We killed him, we killed him!" she cried. I was reassuring. "He's fine," I said, poking through the dirt. But he wasn't. He lay belly up at the bottom of the container, crushed by the landslide.

My daughter was accusing, saying, "I knew we should have put the dirt in first." Admitting mistakes is one of my strong points. "You're right," I said sadly. "Now what?" It was getting dark. Here I was, once again, botching a homework assignment.

"How about ants?" my daughter suggested, "Anything!" I replied. Just before it got too dark to see, we found a colony and trapped some ants. "Should we poke some air holes?" my daughter wondered. Vaguely remembering something about self-contained ant farms, I replied, "They should be OK." And they were.

Depositing my daughter and her hard-won live things from nature at the classroom door, I felt a thrill of thankful relief. But I had a sober walk home. Twelve years, 8 months and 17 days to go. I know my daughter will be fine. I'm still not sure about myself.

(From the *Boston Sunday Globe*, 1/4/98)



let go of my botanical fantasies. I wasn't of a child who brought a slug to school. the house to find a container, leaving me on ture ramifications of her selection.

began our search. Gagging only slightly, I into the container and we clipped on the top. Now we won't have to worry about it." I "Good job," I thought.

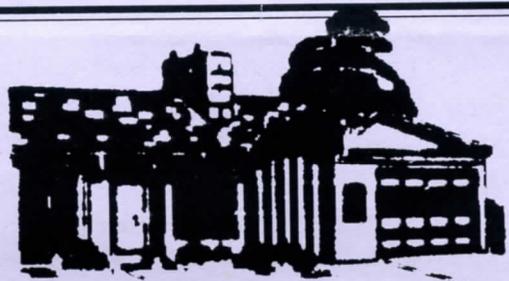
casually at the slug who had spent the week-look right. I examined him more closely. with a chopstick. Not an inkling of move-nature was not a dead slug. My daughter have poked air holes," she said thoughtfully. rizon as we set out to find a slug substitute.

## SELECTMEN'S NOTES by Dodie Thompson

There will be a Special Election held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, February 10th from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is the "People's Veto Referendum." QUESTION: Do you want to reject the law passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor that would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation with respect to jobs, housing, public accommodation and credit.

Vienna residents only may take sand from our sand pit — two buckets per family as needed, The board has voted to place a sign at the pit stating our policy.

We continue to be plagued by harassment, threats and false allegations of one kind or another. We would certainly welcome more townspeople to attend our meetings.



### VIENNA GARAGE DOORS & ELECTRIC OPERATORS, INC.

SOLD - INSTALLED - REPAIRED  
OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE

RT. 41 BOX 766  
VIENNA, MAINE

JIM GAJARSKI

293-2910  
1-800-750-1616

## *Vienna Voices*

*P.O. Box 35*

*Vienna, Maine 04360*