

Letter From the Presidents

Hello Vienna Moms.

We hope that you all enjoyed the summer – we can't believe how quickly it went! As the summer transitioned to Fall, VMI experienced its own transition as our Board and Officers changed over for the new term. We sincerely thank all of volunteers from last year – we truly appreciate everyone who volunteers their time, effort and fresh ideas to make Vienna Moms the wonderful organization that it is. We have included bios and pictures of our new amazing leadership team – please take a moment to introduce yourself to these ladies at our events, they will be the ones wearing nametags!

The two of us are so excited to be co-presidents of Vienna Moms. We met each other in 2014 at a Moms Night Out and then joined the same playgroup together, and have been friends since. Over the years we have each built a strong network of friends and acquaintances through the connections we have made by attending Vienna Moms events. We are truly proud to be part of such a welcoming community of women coming together to support each other.

Our new Board and Officers have already been very busy planning and hosting events that appeal to a variety of families – moms who work, stay at home, have young babies, preschoolers, elementary schoolers, and beyond. We have had great turnout at our Monthly Featured Events such as Under the Sea and Rainbow Rock. We had a ton of fun celebrating back to school at the Moms' Night Out at Open Road Grill, and our Escape Room night filled up quickly. Our Playdates team has organized several great events such as the Farmer's Market & Donuts playdate, and, in response to member feedback, is targeting to have at least one weekend playdate per month.

We look forward to meeting you at upcoming events – they are listed in the newsletter calendar section. If you see us, please come up and say hello (we should also be wearing our nametags)! We just want to keep Vienna Moms on its current path – creating a wonderful community for our members and featuring a wide variety of events for moms and our families. We would also like to help broaden Vienna Moms' visibility in our community and increase our already significant membership (currently over 600 members!). We

would love to hear from you if you have any ideas or suggestions as we work to make Vienna Moms even better!

A couple of additional important items we wanted to share:

1) New Website: We are in the process of transitioning from BigTent to Wild Apricot. You should have already received an email inviting you to visit our new Vienna Moms website where you will create a new log in and password. Your personal info should transfer over automatically. This will not affect your annual membership dues – if your membership is in good standing, you will not have to pay dues until the anniversary of you first joining VMI. We are doing the best to make the transition as seamless as possible, but please bear with us during the transition as hiccups are inevitable. If you have not already received an email from us, please contact our VP of Membership, Mary Beth Banagan, at mbbanagan@yahoo.com.

2) RSVP: Please try to RSVP “yes” to events you are planning to attend so we can appropriately plan to have the right amount of supplies, food, etc.

3) Facebook: Most members use our Vienna Moms Facebook site. This is where most member discussions happen and where you can search the feed for prior discussions when looking for, say, a pediatric ENT, or TaeKwon Do lessons, or what to do about a family of queensnakes in their front yard. Please consider joining to get the full benefits of your VMI membership. To join, search for “Vienna Moms Inc” in the Facebook search bar. It's a closed group so our Membership VP will need to grant you access – you just need a current Vienna Moms membership (dues paid!) and a Facebook account that matches your VMI username, at least in part, so your membership can be verified.

Thanks for being part of this wonderful organization, we can't wait to see you all around town and at upcoming VMI events!

Sincerely,

Patti Olwan & Wendy Rosner

Meet the Board

Patti Olwan

Co-President

Patti Olwan joined Vienna Moms 4 years ago, shortly after the birth of her son Michael.

She has been part of the organization for 3 years now serving as playdate coordinator, VP membership and now co-president.



Originally from a Philadelphia suburb, she moved down to the DMV 10 years ago to attend Radiography school. Marrying Ramsey who is from Fairfax led to rooting in Vienna to start a family.

She works in Radiography education part time. She is enjoying being a part of Vienna Mom's, and making life long friendships on the way.

Mary Beth Baragan (Also known as MB)

Vice President - Membership

Mary Beth joined Vienna Moms 5 years ago after the birth of her twins, Aiden (5) and Abigail (5). Mary Beth enjoys volunteering for this great group having held positions in Vienna Moms for the past 4 years including Playgroup coordinator (Lilac) and Speaker Series Coordinator, and now VP of Membership.



MB is a native of Vienna and enjoys running, spinning, swimming and tennis and spending time with her husband Eric and the twins. Now that her kids have started Kindergarten (Marshall Road Elementary) MB has rejoined the workforce as a Human Resources Consultant. She looks forward to meeting members and making lasting friendships with Vienna Moms in her new role and she hopes to meet as many new members as possible!

Wendy Rosner

Co-President

Wendy joined Vienna Moms in 2012 after moving to Vienna from New York City with her husband Joe.

Wendy has three daughters, Naomi, age 5, a kindergartner, Daphne, age 4, in preschool, and Juliet, who is 20 months old. Wendy first volunteered for VMI as a philanthropy coordinator, then served as treasurer for two years.



Before becoming a stay-at-home mom, Wendy worked as an attorney and as a director of strategy and business development in the financial services industry. She is thankful for the wonderful network of friends she has built through Vienna Moms and is so excited to be able to give back to the organization again this year.

Allison "Allie" Kreps

Vice President - Social

Allie's lived in Vienna for 6 years with her husband, Dave and two daughters: Abigail "Abbie" 7 yrs (second grader at Wolftrap ES) and Isabel "Izzy" 4.5yrs (preschooler).

Prior to working full-time for her daughters, Allie was a 5th grade special education teacher at Colvin Run ES. This is her second year in a leadership role with VMI, last year she was one of three adult social chairs. Allie is an active member in the VMI Book Club, enjoys attending MNO's, and meeting other moms!



Stephanie Jasenak

Secretary

Stephanie is the new Secretary for Vienna Moms. Stephanie, her husband Andy, and their now two-year-old daughter Rebecca, moved to Vienna in January 2016, during the snowstorm that dropped three feet of snow! While that was a very cold and challenging welcome, Stephanie and her family found Vienna warm and inviting and soon found themselves part of the community. Prior to having her daughter, Stephanie was a music teacher in Connecticut and California, and now has joined her daughter's preschool to be the new music teacher. When she is not singing and dancing, she is working on growing her photography business.



Farisa Dastvar Elmi

Treasurer

Farisa was born and bred in Northern Virginia and her husband, Sal, reigns from Dayton, Ohio. After marriage, they were living in Southern Maryland until they realized that they couldn't resist their parents' helping out with their kids any longer. They moved across the bridge to be closer to their families and have loved every second of living in Vienna. Farisa and Sal are parents to Dara (2) and Omid (9 months). Both hubby and wife are attorneys. Though juggling work and family life keep her busy, Farisa enjoys keeping involved in the organization and staying connected with her fellow Vienna Moms.



Stephanie Jasenak, Mary Beth Banagan, Patti Olwan, Wendy Rosner, Farisa Dastvar Elmi.

Useful contact information:

- Playgroups:** To join a playgroup – VMlplaygroups@gmail.com
- Newsletter:** To submit articles or announcements – Viennamomsnewsletter@gmail.com
- Treasurer:** Use for finance and dues-related questions – Viennamomstreasurer@gmail.com
- General Inquiries:** Email us with any ideas, questions, or concerns – Viennamomsboardandofficers@gmail.com

Meet the Officers

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Rebecca Grimm

Welcoming Committee

Rebecca grew up in Connecticut. After going to college in upstate NY, she moved to VA to teach for Prince William County. After meeting her husband in D.C and getting a job teaching for Fairfax County, they moved to Vienna about 10 years ago. They have two daughters, Ashley (4 1/2) and Lauren (2 1/2). She currently is an ESOL/Resource teacher at Vienna Elementary. Joining Vienna Moms has helped her meet new friends and get her involved in this wonderful small-town community. She served on the welcoming committee last year and is looking forward to helping new members again this term.

Carolina Mejia Doherty

Welcoming Committee

Carolina has put roots in Vienna after living in a variety of states and countries, including being born in Colombia, growing up in LA, and attending school in Philadelphia. She and her husband, Bryan, are parents to Thomas (2) and Ninja (7 and a dog). Carolina works in Management and Economic Consulting and also teaches prenatal yoga. She enjoys connecting with other moms and kids in Vienna Moms and is excited to help welcome new members as they find out about all the great things the group offers.

Erin Gross

Welcoming Committee

Erin joined Vienna mom's six years ago after her daughter was born. She had no idea that it would be one of the best decisions of her life. She has met so many wonderful women, some who have become her closest friends. Erin also has a strong connection to her community and town that comes from being involved. She currently serves on the welcoming committee but has also served as playgroup coordinator and play date coordinator. Erin is mom to Sophia (age 6) and Oliver (age 2). She works part-time as an ESOL teacher at Westlawn Elementary School.

Liz Bentzinger

Philanthropy

Liz has been a member of Vienna Moms and the Vienna community since the birth of her daughter in 2010. Liz and her husband, Andy, are originally from NJ and have a daughter, Zoe (7), and son, Roman (4). Liz is an attorney at the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Kate Luke

Philanthropy

Kate joined Vienna Moms in 2014 when her twin boys, Tommy and Jimmy, were about 9 months old. She credits the Indigo playgroup moms and participating in the VMI book club as "saving her sanity"! Prior to becoming a stay at home mom (with a few consulting gigs on the side), Kate was a healthcare development executive, raising money for Inova, Georgetown and Children's National. She and her husband JP have enjoyed living in Vienna for the past 5 years.

Maria Hill

Webmaster

Maria and her husband, Steve, both grew up in Vienna and were HS sweethearts. They have a daughter, Kathleen (6) and three dogs, Abby, Bruno and Frankie. Maria has been an active member of Vienna Moms for 5 years. After a two years of planning the VMI play dates, and serving on the board as the VP Social, she will now be VMI's webmaster. She is full time working mom in the IT field. When she is not working or volunteering, Maria enjoys reading, traveling, being crafty with her daughter, and cooking. Maria is excited for a great year serving as web admin.

Michelle Maxey

MNO Co-Coordinator

Michelle joined Vienna Moms when her second child, Sophia (2) was born. She also has a son, Connor (4). While Vienna/VA has been her home for nearly 10 years, she did grow up in WNY. She moved to VA for her first

teaching job, teaching Deaf/Hard of Hearing students, met her husband after living here for 5 months, and the rest is history! She decided to stay at home after the birth of her second child, and joined Vienna Moms. She has met so many fantastic moms through VMI, and loves being involved in her community. Last year Michelle planned the monthly featured events with Helen Barbeau, and they had so much planning together that they decided to plan MNO together again.

Helen Barbeau

MNO Co-Coordinator

Helen has been a member of Vienna Moms for two years, since moving from California with her husband Daniel in 2015. They have one daughter, Fiona, who is 2 years old. Helen enjoyed planning monthly featured events last year for the kids and is looking forward to a fun year of Mom's Night Outs this year!

Hilary Flynn

Social Co-Chair - kids

Hilary has been a member of Vienna Moms for about a year. Last year, she served as a play date coordinator, and this year, she's excited to be co-planning the big family parties as a social chair. Hilary and her husband moved to Vienna with their three kids last summer (2016), but have spent five years in Northern VA. Their oldest, Anna Grace, is 15 and a freshman at Madison. Their littles are Chesleigh (5) and Everett (3.5), and they go to preschool at Wesley. Before staying home with the kids, Hilary was a kindergarten teacher. She loves staying home and is passionate about adoption, community, and baking!

Amanda McCormick

Social Co-Chair - kids

Amanda has been a member of Vienna Moms for one year, since moving to Vienna from Alexandria. She has three children - Austin (3.5 years), Madison (3.5 years), and Brooklyn (1.5 years). Amanda and her husband Andrew have been in northern Virginia for 11 years and absolutely love living in Vienna! Previously a teacher, Amanda is now a full-time stay at home mom and loves all the experiences, activities, and relationships that Vienna Moms provides! She is really looking forward to planning some fun kids' social events this year!

Jessica Jones

Monthly Featured Events Co-Coordinator

Jessica has lived in Vienna since 2014 and this will be her third year as a part of Vienna Moms Inc. Last year she served as one of the Play date coordinators and she is excited to be back as an officer this year. Jessica has a 3 year old daughter named Ella and will have a baby boy joining the family in December 2017. In her spare time she loves to spend time with her "mommy friends", jog, and find really good bargains.

Kimberly Steinel Howard

Monthly Featured Events Co-Coordinator

Kimberly is a native Virginian who most recently lived in Arlington before moving to Vienna. She and her husband, Paul have one daughter, Alexa, age three. She worked in communications for associations and she continues to serve on the board of AIGA DC. Joining Vienna Moms helped her connect to her local community and found her moms willing to tackle the W&OD, stroller-style (mostly for the Caffè Amouri coffee at the end, of course!).

Lindsey Viscomi

Speaker Series

Lindsey just moved to Vienna at the start of 2017 and dove into Vienna Moms head first as the co-chair of the speakers series. Until then, Lindsey and her husband, Jeff, and two adventurous little ladies, Gemma (4.5) and Frankie (2.5) lived in Atlanta. Lindsey traded her business casual and commute from Atlanta for workout clothes and a home office at her kitchen table and continued to work in marketing for Healthgrades. Lindsey is still getting the lay of the land in the DC area and looks forward to meeting more people in town.

Lauren Bazri

Speaker Series

Lauren has been loving life in the DC area for over ten years now! Four years ago, Lauren and her husband, Baback, moved from Vienna to Oakton when they bought their first home together shortly after getting married. Her 2.5 year old daughter, Roya, is the center of her world.

Peggy Yee

Playdate Co-Coordinator

Peggy Yee has been a member of Vienna Moms for 2 years. She and her husband, David, have 2 kids - Alex (4) and Emily (2) and they love taking family trips to children's museums across the country. Peggy works full time as a real estate agent with Frankly Realtors. She decided to serve as one of the playdate coordinators to meet other moms and plan some really fun events for the kids!

Cynthia Pettorito

Playdate Co-Coordinator

Cynthia is mom to Alina (3), Zac & Vince (1) and joined VMI in May. Originally from a Texas, she moved to DC 7 years ago to be with her now husband Anthony. After enjoying city living in the heart of Adams Morgan and a short temporary work assignment Charlottesville it was time to set some roots and Vienna was the perfect place.

Rachel Morrell

Playdate Co-Coordinator

Rachel is originally from Philadelphia, PA and most recently lived in Capitol Hill before moving to Vienna a little over a year and a half ago. She and her husband John have 2 crazy boys – Samuel (age 4) and Jacob (age 1). Rachel works full time for Eli Lilly Pharmaceuticals and joined Vienna Moms to meet more people in the area and to become more involved in the community.

Lauren Downs

Playdate Co-Coordinator

Lauren is a Northern Virginia native and has lived in Vienna for 4 1/2 years with her husband Andy, and children Jackson (4) and Emmy (2). Lauren's middle child, Gus (3), is of the fur variety. Lauren works full time for Prince William County Public Schools as a Reading Specialist.

Helena Maclean

Playgroup Coordinator

Helena has been a member of Vienna Moms for 5 years. After receiving her doctorate degree in pharmacy in Boston, she moved down to the DMV 15 years ago to complete her fellowship. She moved to Vienna while engaged to her husband, Matthew. Helena has two children Joshua (5) and Anna (3).

Andrea Hager

Newsletter

Andrea has been married to Mike for 10 years, they have 2 kids, Lucas (6) and Sophia (3). Originally from Colombia, Andrea made Vienna her home in 2008. She is a stay at home mom, graphic designer, Zumba dancer and Smithsonian (National Air and Space Museum) volunteer photographer.



Vienna Moms Inc. Board and Officers

Playdates

July

Donuts and Farmers Market Playdate

We kicked off the summer with the annual “donuts and farmers market” play date. Everyone nibbled on the mini donuts from Mama’s Donut Bites and also enjoyed some ice cold lemonade. It was a great meet and greet for parents and kids!

Baby Playdate

We also had our first baby play-date of the new season in July! Everyone had a great time eating snacks and sipping on tea, while getting to know other moms with infants.

Babies and Families Potluck

Denise Seal hosted a Potluck for babies and Families. The weather didn't cooperate but we still had a great turnout of moms, dads, babies, siblings, a few aupairs and LOTS of great food. With a house full of babies and toddlers it was a little crazy, but a lot of fun.

Camp Playdate

We had a blast painting pet rocks, eating S'mores Chex mix, and playing on the playground. Thank you to the moms that came out and braved the thunderstorm. It was such a hit with those that came out that we decided to have a “Day at Camp Playdate Part 2” in August!

Bubbles and Chalk

It was great. We had a lot of moms come out with their kids! All the kids played with the bubble wands and got creative with chalk drawings. For several moms, it was their first event with Vienna Moms also.

August

Stories at Strawberry Park

We went to Stories at Strawberry Park. The fountains at Mosaic were not working, but some of the moms were able to enjoy the mini fountains nearby!



Bubbles and Chalk



Rainbow Rock

Moms' Night Out

August

Open Road Grill

We had a great turnout and enjoyed the beautiful weather on their outdoor patio. It was great to meet/see so many lovely ladies and enjoy time to ourselves during back to school week!



Open Road Grill

September

Escape Room

Thanks to everyone who came to our Moms Night Out at Escape Room Fairfax! We all managed to escape and had a fun time in the process!



Escape Room

Monthly Meetings

July

Face Painting, Balloons and Popsicles

On a sticky summer day, Vienna Moms and children came out to enjoy popsicles on a playground. A pediatric specialist taught the kids the best way to brush their teeth: Sing the ABCs for the top row and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star for the bottom and, of course, never neglect brushing the tongue! Bright, sparkly designs covered faces and hands and balloon swords, dogs, and cats were made to order.



Under the Sea

August

Under the Sea

Those seeking under the sea adventure found it in the Faith Baptist Church auditorium. A marine education expert presented live sea creatures. Afterwards, all the children were invited to check out all the creatures up close. The presenter blew into a conch shell, playing it like a trumpet, sending out the ocean call across the room!



Rainbow Rock

September

Rainbow Rock

Vienna Moms rocked with "the Rainbow Lady", who brought her act to the Town Green. It was the perfect accompaniment to the sea of blankets surrounding the stage as the children lifted their arms like butterflies, rainbow ribbons in the air.

Upcoming Events

October

Pumpkins & Brews

Sunday October 15th 2:00-5:00PM

Bring the whole family and join us at Caboose Brewery for pumpkin decorating kids and brew for the adults. Our friends at Caboose will be providing happy hour pricing and VMI will have pumpkins for the kids.

If you live close to Caboose, we encourage you to walk/bike on the trail that day, as parking may be tight.

Pure Barre Class

Our Pure Barre MNO has already filled up – it is definitely a popular event. If you were not able to reserve a slot, we may be hosting a second Pure Barre night soon. Also, if you did sign up and are no longer able to go, please change your RSVP as soon as possible. The event has a long waitlist of people who would love to take your spot!

Treats & Teeth

Friday October 20th 12:15pm-2pm.

With all the treats our kids will be enjoying in October, teeth cleaning is of the most important! Dr. Veronica Miller at Downtown Vienna Dental will be hosting an event to help keep our little ones teeth healthy. The office will provide light refreshments, and there will also be a raffle for a free tooth whitening! Location: Vienna Community Center.

Fall Festival

October 22, 3-5pm.

Please join us for our Fall Festival – one of the three huge parties VMI throws each year! The Festival will be at South Side Park and kids are welcome to come in costume. We'll have a photo booth, petting farm, pony rides, a barrel train ride, games and a caramel apple snack bar. Your kids will have a blast!

Good to Know

All October events will appear on both bigtent and Wild Apricot for the month of October during the transition. After that, all new events will only be on the new site, powered by Wild Apricot.

November

Vendor Fair

On November 19th we will have a VMI Vendor Fair at Community Center. There will be 20 tables with a wide variety of vendors, hoping to be filled with just other Vienna moms owned businesses. Stay tuned for more details.

Philanthropy

The Philanthropy Committee is now seeking sponsors to help make a very special holiday season for deserving children through the Angel Tree project. If you would like to sponsor a child, please email Liz Bentzinger at bentzingere@yahoo.com or Kate Luke at kate.p.luke@gmail.com by October 15th, 2017.

Also, the Philanthropy Committee is very excited to pair up with the Playdate team to plan a fun trick or treat event in October at Sunrise. We are also looking forward to joining a Mom's Night Out this fall to help a worthy cause, so stay tuned!

Mom Resources:

Looking for Fall kid-friendly festivals and activities in NOVA? Check out the following resources which also provide year-round news of fun things to do in the area!

- Dulles Mom
<http://dullesmoms.com/>
- Fairfax Family Fun
<http://www.fairfaxfamilyfun.com/>
- KidFriendlyDC
<http://kidfriendlydc.com/>
- Our Kids
<https://www.our-kids.com>