

Candidates for Vienna Mayor, City Council and Recorder

This candidate information is brought to you by the League of Women Voters of Wood County as a public service. Candidate responses are printed exactly as received, including spelling, grammar and content. Candidate biographies and responses to questions were limited to 60 words.

Office Vienna Mayor
Name Randall Rapp
Party Non-partisan

Biography

Married 42 years to Cassie. Daughters Carrie and Shelly. B.A. – WVU, PHS Graduate. Mayor – 2013-2020. Recorder – 2005-2013. President – MOV Mayors Association. Finance Chairman, Board of Directors – MOVRC. Chairman – Vienna Utility Board. Chief Local Elected Official – Workforce WV. National Association of Development Organizations – 1st elected official from WV. Business Owner – 25 years. Past President – Wood County Planning Commission.

1. What is the biggest issue facing Vienna and how would you address it?

Loss of population is the biggest issue Vienna faces. We need to develop Vienna to attract more families and businesses. We are blessed to have 4 Schools of Excellence and great recreation facilities. We need to continue to support our business community to remain the retail hub of the Valley. Biking trails and kayak launch would help bring people here.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Vienna?

We are limited to small business in Vienna. The only large tract of available property is the former Manville site. The city has a policy now that gives a 100% economic development tax credit to a new business that has a \$250,000 annual payroll for 3 years. The city is clean, safe, and welcoming for businesses to come.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

We have implemented a mapping system (GIS) to locate all water and sewer lines. This will allow us to target older areas or problem areas that need to be fixed. Our water tanks are new, our sewer plant has been upgraded to last 40 years. The carbon filters clean our water supply to non-detect levels. Streets are a priority.

4. What do you want to accomplish as mayor?

Vienna is ranked the 2nd best city to live in WV based on quality of life. It is ranked 4th safest based on crime statistics. I will work to get us to #1. Vienna is the place people want to live, shop, and raise a family. I am proud of the employees and first responders that make it happen daily.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective mayor?

I have been elected to positions of leadership at the city, county, state, and national level. I have lived in Vienna many years and know and appreciate its values. I was given a servant's heart and get satisfaction helping people. I have provided leadership to a team that has been through a derecho, C-8 issue, and now COVID-19 pandemic.

Office Vienna Mayor
Name Mike Smith
Party Non-partisan

Biography

Mike Smith was born and raised in the great state of West Virginia. Mike is a single parent raising two beautiful daughters, Carly 15, and Lilly 13. Mike is a dedicated father with a strong tradition of family values and community service. Mike Smith and his daughters love living in Vienna and are proud to call this city home.

1. What is the biggest issue facing Vienna and how would you address it?

Control runaway spending and get a clear financial picture of the John's Manville property. Use the budget to improve life for the citizens of Vienna focusing on everyone from our youth to our senior citizens

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Vienna?

Possible reduction of B&O taxes (Business and Occupation). Together we will provide hands on attention to small business owners with a goal of improving their business as well as our city.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

Evaluate current stormwater drainage issues to improve the quality and safety of the properties that are negatively impacted including attention to Pond Run. Improve the city water quality by upgrading with new water lines. Improving the safety and quality of our city streets to increase our resident's and city's property values.

4. What do you want to accomplish as mayor?

Develop an improved time frame and platform for Vienna resident's voices and opinions to be heard at our city council meetings. Hold quarterly town hall meetings so we can discuss with Vienna residents what has been completed and together plan for our future.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective mayor?

40 years of leadership experience. Specialized in Water and Gas Pipelines. Meeting and working with local and state government officials on bidding and budgeting large city projects. Dealing with environmental issues. Skilled in contract negotiations, scheduling, business development and financial planning. Office leadership and experience including large numbers of employees and insuring employees a structured, safe, and healthy workplace.

Office Vienna City Council

Name Tom Azinger

Party Non-partisan

Biography

Graduated PHS, WVU – BS Business Administration. Member of Mountain, President of Phi Sigma Kappa. 22 years – WV House of Delegates – two years in Vienna City Council.

Past president Vienna Lions, Vice President Jaycees. Four children, 23 great/grandchildren. Insurance agent 30 years – Bank Board member 10 years.

1. What is the biggest issue facing Vienna and how would you address it?

The biggest issue facing our society is drugs. It costs WV 100s of millions annually and tears families apart. It causes a huge percentage of crime. 90% of prison inmates are there due to drugs and alcohol. A huge percentage of our police department's efforts concern drugs. Address it by keeping our police department strong.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Vienna?

The two biggest items in business look at are taxes and regulations. I would try to reduce B&O taxes, and reduce any outdated regulation. Wheeling reduced regulations with great success. Keeping our police and fire departments strong will make us attractive as well as our quality of life ie Seniors Center, Parks, and youth sports programs.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

I would be for updating our plan to replace our sewer and storm water systems. I think we should have a plan to start with the older sections of the city and work forward. We redo streets every year. Perhaps we could beef up the budget for streets.

4. What do you want to accomplish as a member of City Council?

Do everything we can to attract and stabilize businesses. Keep our police department strong to fight the drug problem. Update our plan to improve our infrastructure, water, sewer, and streets. Support our quality of life advantages, senior programs, parks, and youth programs. Keep Vienna a place where people want to live.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective member of City Council?

My bio outlines my experiences which are mostly business related; as for my qualities which would make me an affective Council member, that is mostly for the voters to judge. I would try to work hard, be informed, and use many long life experiences to make votes in the best interests of all our civilians.

Office Vienna City Council
Name Roger D. Bibbee
Party Non-partisan

Biography

I am a lifelong resident of Vienna. I graduated from PHS, attended Parkersburg Community College, and WVU Government Leadership Academy. I worked for over forty years in public safety. I served twenty eight years on the Vienna Fire Department with the last thirteen years as Deputy Fire Chief. I am now retired from Security Supervision in the healthcare field.

1. What is the biggest issue facing Vienna and how would you address it?

Economic Development is a big issue. I would like to work with local developers, realtors and the development authority to explore what businesses could be brought into the city to fill vacant buildings and store fronts. The former Johns Manville property will be a major development project will be a great asset for Vienna.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Vienna?

I would support policies that would make the city more beautiful and attractive that would help make Vienna more desirable for new businesses to locate here. I would also support a policy to start out low on taxes during the startup phase of the business and increase it upward to the existing current rates over a period of time.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

My priorities are to support street repair projects. Public safety by continuing to maintain the current excellent police and fire department for the protection of our citizens. Adequate water and sewer is a must for the infrastructure of the city. Recreation programs for youth and having the Sr. Citizen Center in operation.

4. What do you want to accomplish as a member of City Council?

I want to accomplish the completion of the TIF project at the Mall which allowed for the expansion of four well name stores at the location where Sears was located. Also, to accomplish making our buildings more safe and secure. I want to be part of an initiative to clean up run down trashy dilapidated residence in the city.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective member of City Council?

I have City Council experience. I completed the WVU Government Leadership Academy and provide a common sense approach to government. I had experience in a supervisory role for up to twenty employees. I have the ability listen to the citizens however I don't always tell them what they want to hear but try to respond with fact and correct answers.

Office Vienna City Council
Name Kelly Sassi Craft
Party Non-partisan

No Reply

Office Vienna City Council
Name Mike Elam
Party Non-partisan

Biography

A lifelong resident of Vienna. Graduated from Marshall University in 1992. Employed with Stonerise Healthcare in Charleston, WV. Majority of my career has been in healthcare roles involving social worker, sales and marketing, and as a nursing home administrator. My wife Melissa and I have been married for 17 years and have two sons, Chaz is 13 and Tyson's 7.

1. What is the biggest issue facing Vienna and how would you address it?

Lack of transparency, flooding issues, uncontrolled spending, non working 5-10 year plan, outdated / irrelevant ordinances, inefficient budget process, not capitalizing on opportunities that youth sports provide and across the board raises for city employees. Want to address these concerns individually before council. This first term I've discovered issues, now time to fix them .

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Vienna?

Focus on job retention by offering tax incentives which will also attract new businesses. Opportunity for growth can also be found in youth sports. A facility or complex that becomes a destination and can also be utilized by our citizens. Visitors would be taking advantage of our hotels, restaurants and shopping. This would create new job opportunities as well.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

A thorough study needs to be done street by street to see what needs fixed; a long range plan to fix the issues and not keep putting them off. We may need to seek outside help and work with the county and state officials on many of our issues currently going on in our city.

4. What do you want to accomplish as a member of City Council?

I feel a lot of current problems were brought to light by the many questions that I have asked about over the previous 4 years. Now we need a plan to address some of the things that were voted down frequently. We need to focus on what the residents need done, rather than any kind of personal agenda platform.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective member of City Council?

I've been a nursing home administrator for the majority of my working years. I know how to manage finances, human resources. I understand how leadership impacts the overall goals of an organization. Know how to stay focused on the objectives of the business. I now have a much better understanding of how our local government is run

Office Vienna City Council

Name Alice Goodwin

Party Non-partisan

Biography

AAS Business Technology, Regent Bachelor of Arts, WVSSAC Secretary 18 years, Past President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Vienna Fire Department, Facebook - Alice Goodwin for Vienna City Council.

1. What is the biggest issue facing Vienna and how would you address it?

Financial transparency. Hire an independent auditor and find where the leaks are in the city's' finances. Make each department more responsible and accountable for their spending. A detailed budget for each department, no two departments has the same needs. The mayor and council are spending the resident's money, they deserve to know how their dollars are being allocated.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Vienna?

Any policy that will attract and keep new businesses and make them sustainable in our community. Businesses the citizens can support and become a life-long part of Vienna. Ask current business owners what would attract new businesses to Vienna and be profitable and flourish.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

Developing projects for our roads and storm drainage. Creating manageable projects with real deadlines and within budget. Not just a band-aid and a prayer. The city's water filtration system of C8 and other contaminants needs to be addressed, so when the cost and responsibility is transferred to Vienna, the city will be fully prepared.

4. What do you want to accomplish as a member of City Council?

Control spending. A mayor and council that works together for the good of its citizens. Needs are met before wants. Prioritize the city's core and pressing needs first, then budget and plan for the future desires of the city. It can be accomplished.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective member of City Council?

Create budgets, prioritize information, time-management, problem-solver. Compassionate about others. I make my own decisions based upon the information presented. Ask the hard questions when they need to be asked. I do the right thing even if it is not the popular choice.

Office Vienna City Council
Name Harry Helmick
Party Non-partisan

Biography

Married to Patricia Helmick three children and seven grandchildren.

Lived in Vienna for over forty years.

Retired after forty years in the insurance industry covering 5 states and from agent to Regional Manager. As such hold numerous designations in Financial planning.

1. What is the biggest issue facing Vienna and how would you address it?

The Manville project and it's growth. I feel we should utilize and grow the river side to the maximum. It is complete for projects now. Perhaps even a soccer field, boat dock and things to do to attract people. Then make some profit before spending more on the undeveloped area.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Vienna?

Perhaps a break on B&O taxes would be a start. A plan of future monies is greater than empty buildings and no jobs. Promote the area and work with owners of available properties and developers to close the deal .

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

First there IS money in the budget allocated for road repair. But has been frozen (because of virus) until spring, maybe? This \$500,000 should be used the repairs are needed now. The longer we wait the more costly it will be. Perhaps some less needed things should be left to spring.

Fixing water issues is a career.

4. What do you want to accomplish as a member of City Council?

My goal is to do what the people of Vienna want for the city. And when I am gone people will say "he made a difference for the better". And be a voice of reason on the council hopefully to end personal bickering and do the city's business as it should be done.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective member of City Council?

I'm a TEAM PLAYER but know that my team consist of the people of Vienna. My 40 plus years of making sensible and productive decisions for my clients and agents is priceless.

I feel the experiences God has given me will be very useful during my term on the council.

Office Vienna City Council
Name Jim Leach
Party Non-partisan

Biography

Lifelong education and service to others are the hallmarks of leadership. I am a current Vienna City Councilman with 25 years of legal experience and a Masters in Energy Law from WVU. I am an owner of Business Systems, a 50 year-old Vienna business, and a general contractor who has developed real-estate and created jobs in Vienna for 35 years.

1. What is the biggest issue facing Vienna and how would you address it?

We are blessed in Vienna to have a strong tax base and stable city government backed by dedicated and long-tenured city employees and long-serving elected officials. Keeping our city government stable and keeping pace with emerging trends in retail and commerce are essential to maintaining our revenue streams to provide services to our citizens.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Vienna?

Responsibly develop the Johns Manville property and continue to re-develop Grand Central Avenue from 9th Street to 34th Street, where necessary, with support from the City. This will attract business and commerce and make Vienna more attractive for families to live and work here. Also hire an economic development director to replace Paul Thorton, who retired.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

The consolidation and streamlining of our maintenance and utility support facilities on 60th Street in recent years, as well as the continued funding and development of water and sewer infrastructure, has positioned Vienna well for the future. The steadily increasing stormwater events, coupled with the limited capacity of Pond Run, need to be focused upon now.

4. What do you want to accomplish as a member of City Council?

Remediating Johns Manville challenged me in my first term. Fortunately, it is nearing completion with “Riverside” parcel successfully remediated and the final report submitted. The “Production” parcel is approaching completion, too. In a second term, I want to focus on the re-development of both parcels for Vienna’s citizens and for the City’s tax base.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective member of City Council?

My first term taught me how to attend to the City’s business. I became liaison to the Johns Manville project and was appointed to the Planning Commission. In my second year, I became Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee. This experience helps me to work with others in government service for the benefit of my constituents.

Office Vienna City Council

Name Bruce Rogers

Party Non-partisan

Biography

I graduated from PHS. I have a BA from Marshall and a Master’s from WVU. I taught mathematics and science in Wood County Schools. I served in the US Air Force as an Air Traffic Control electrician. I am married and have two children and two Stepsons. I presently work as a councilman representing the Vienna Senior Center and VUB.

1. What is the biggest issue facing Vienna and how would you address it?

There are several sections in Vienna that are affected by water runoff especially during high amounts of rainfall. Larger culverts and manholes need be installed to take water faster to Pond Run. Property owners outside of City that cause problems should be asked if the City could landscape their properties to cause water to run away from affected areas.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Vienna?

Home Rule allowed the City to lower the B&O taxes. With the amount of money coming in from Home Rule those taxes may be lowered more and give businesses an incentive to come here. Support the Grand Central Mall TIFF zoning and expansion.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

The costliest would be to replace current bridges crossing Pond Run. Some bridges are about to have weight restrictions which may forbid fire department trucks from crossing (Safety issue). Other issues involve replacing old storm water lines that have collapsed or are filled with tree roots, water lines that continually break and then fix damage done to street.

4. What do you want to accomplish as a member of City Council?

I would like to see the development of Spencer’s Landing. I would like to see a boat docking system where families could fish, a band shell, picnic shelters, restrooms, pickleball courts, horseshoe pits and possibly a way to launch boats. Find a way to remove some of the restriction of the plant property so it can be sold.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective member of City Council?

I have worked with and served with Vienna Park Board, Vienna Recreation, Vienna Tree and Beautification Committee, Vienna Senior Center and Vienna Utility Board. I helped develop rules and regulations that were used to make the Vienna Planning Commission and the Vienna Utility Board. As a retired veteran I understand the plight of those seniors on fixed incomes and disabilities.

Office Vienna City Council

Name Henry Sasyn

Party Non-partisan

Biography

I, Henry Sasyn, am a: husband; father of teenage twins at PHS and two grown stepchildren; caring homeowner; West Virginia native; 24-year resident of Vienna; son of Polish immigrants; 32 year employee with Momentive Performance Materials, currently in a Product Manager position; West Virginia University graduate with a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering and a Masters Degree in Business Administration.

1. What is the biggest issue facing Vienna and how would you address it?

Vienna's aging infrastructure (storm drains, roads, and waterlines) has been neglected for years. Capital needs to be constantly applied for this upkeep else the outlay will be huge later; it's no different than maintaining the upkeep of a home. This oversight will cause a decrease in property values and a loss in curbside appeal to attract people to live here.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Vienna?

Rather than focusing on tax breaks and subsidies that come at the taxpayers' expense, attention needs placed on transforming Vienna into a relevant / vibrant city for such an environment cultivates creative, productive workforces and long-term, sustainable businesses. To begin Vienna needs to be: viewed as a city where people work, live, and play; electing visionary leaders; harnessing its appeal.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

Establish cross functional team to access and assign a priority number to each Vienna street regarding the combined condition of:

storm drains, waterlines, and roads; define capital requirements needed to complete necessary repairs over the next 10-15 year period; budget for the long-term work; rank / address those that are in the worst condition first; evaluate progress / needs annually.

4. What do you want to accomplish as a member of City Council?

Expand the Vienna City limits: seek interest / approval from North Hills, Central, & Boaz.; eliminate the five "at large" city council seats; establish five wards to ensure equal Vienna representation on city council; address the aging infrastructure; waterlines, storm drains, and streets; give Vienna residents a reason to want to live here; establish term-limits for all elected city officials.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective member of City Council?

32-years of professional experience, leadership skills, and a passion for improving operations / work processes; conducted business in 45 different countries around the world; during my tenure, the company has either been divested or merged eight times. Thus one has to access, adapt, and overcome diversity with the changing times, instead of "business as usual", in order to survive.

Office Vienna City Council

Name Kim Williams

Party Non-partisan

Biography

I am a Vienna native and small business owner. I graduated from PHS in 1986 and have an Associate Degree from WVUP and a Culinary Degree from Baltimore International Culinary College. I am a Board member of a local non-profit and I volunteer with other community organizations. For additional info on my priorities for Vienna, please visit KimWilliamsforVienna.com.

1. What is the biggest issue facing Vienna and how would you address it?

Lack of financial responsibility. I would create a Stabilization or Rainy-Day Fund to maintain a prudent level of financial resources to protect against raising taxes and fees or reducing service levels because of revenue shortfalls. Stop expanding city government which has grown over 30% in 7 years. I will work to improve our financial management and transparency.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Vienna?

Offer remote worker grants. Attract remote workers from higher paying industries such as tech, insurance, and health care services by reimbursing them for relocation costs, office equipment, software, and broadband access

or upgrades. Vienna has a lot to offer with our low cost of living, beautiful parks and green spaces, shopping, and quality housing stock.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

Establish an Infrastructure Capital Plan. Members of Council need to form a Public Works Committee to receive monthly reports from the Public Works Department. Council needs an assessment of our infrastructure, project costs, potential funding sources, and costs to maintain. Council must prioritize these projects and work toward implementation and completion.

4. What do you want to accomplish as a member of City Council?

I want to address our aging infrastructure, especially storm water drainage. My goal is to create a comprehensive plan for economic development that includes completing the stalled Johns Manville property. I will restore fiscal responsibly and carefully manage your tax dollars.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective member of City Council?

I am a successful small business owner who is immersed in learning about Vienna. For nearly two years, I have attended every City Council meeting and Utility Board Meeting. Every month I attend the Budget and Finance Meeting, Tree and Beautification Commission Meeting and Board of Parks and Recreation Meeting. I am ready to serve Vienna on day one.

Office Vienna City Council

Name Lawrence Wilson

Party Non-partisan

No Reply - Deceased

Office Vienna Recorder

Name Melissa Elam

Party Non-partisan

Biography

Business Management degree from Marshall University. Employed by Habitat for Humanity as the Volunteer Coordinator. Past positions include Upward Basketball Director, Financial Peace University Coordinator, PTO President, and church secretary. Married to Mike for 17 years. Sons, Chaz (13) and Tyson (7). Stayed home full time for 11 years. Person of integrity, hard work, and diligence.

1. As a voting member of City Council, what do you believe is the biggest issue facing Vienna and how would you address it?

Lack of ambition from leadership. We need leaders who will tackle hard things. Big problems need big solutions and leaders who can see it through. Winners and losers don't make good neighbors. The contention is out of hand and unproductive. I will help facilitate conversations that are healthy and respectful and that stay focused on solutions for the greater good.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Vienna?

Living wages doesn't necessarily mean manufacturing or corporations. Small business owners, entrepreneurs, and home-based businesses are supporting their families and serving their communities. We should examine hinderances and obstacles to their success... zoning, taxes, codes, regulations. We could be a small business hub and a place for driven citizens to thrive.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

Comprehensive evaluation. Compile an exhaustive list of the problems. Research how they may be related. Determine why certain areas need frequent repairs for water, sewer, storm drainage, and roads. Work with County officials and the DEP to ensure Pond Run is draining properly for the entirety of its length. Improvements to city systems should be ongoing, not special projects.

4. What do you want to accomplish as recorder?

The Recorder is on the Budget and Finance Committee with the mayor and one other councilperson. I am a proactive, conservative voice. My votes in Council Meetings will be thoughtful and carefully weighed. I will be an active participant and hope to bring out the best in us so we can move the city ahead in a positive direction.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective recorder and voting member of City Council?

I have a reputation of being a driven problem solver. I listen and ask good questions. I am detailed, thorough, and a good communicator. Strong in strategies and logistics. I believe government should be limited and that it has big responsibilities that are currently not being fulfilled to the satisfaction and benefit of the citizens of Vienna.

Office Vienna Recorder
Name Cathy Smith
Party Non-partisan

Biography

Raised in a military family; graduate of PHS; Worked for Vienna Police Department following graduation until 2001; Worked 11 years for Department of Veteran Affairs. Currently at VPD since 2014. Previous Council member; Vienna Recorder since 2012. Mother to Steve Harris, Brittany Nolan, Holly Smith, attended Vienna Schools and PHS. Blessed with three grandchildren. Member of St. Michael Catholic Church.

1. As a voting member of City Council, what do you believe is the biggest issue facing Vienna and how would you address it?

Currently, one of the biggest challenges facing our community today is for our citizens and businesses to regain strength and resources lost from the impact of COVID-19. Small businesses in our community have tremendously suffered. Recovery from this pandemic will take continued cooperation from our Council and all levels of our government.

2. What policies would you support that would attract businesses that pay living wages to Vienna?

With factories and plants no longer existing in our community, Vienna will soon receive certificates of completion on the Johns Manville property. This will allow opportunities for the industrial side to be developed, increasing the potential for employment opportunities, investment returns, and contribute to the City's growth and prosperity.

3. What are your priorities in meeting the infrastructure needs of the city?

Infrastructure issues are ongoing needs for Vienna, as well as most communities. Our Public Works Department addresses issues as they arise, and will continue to do so. Major infrastructure replacement projects require long term planning with projected revenue costs.

4. What do you want to accomplish as recorder?

As Recorder, I want to continue to responsibly preserve the records of the City of Vienna and address and complete those duties with detail, organization, and efficiency. I believe it is crucial for Council to work together for the present and future benefit of all of our citizens.

5. What qualities or experience do you have that would make you an effective recorder and voting member of City Council?

Knowledge and expertise in this position allows me to continue to maintain the City's records and allows me to make well-informed decisions. Well-informed decisions produce well-informed results. My understanding of the inner workings of City government is an asset for continuing to make Vienna an inviting, safe, and great community in which to live and raise families.