



The City of Manassas Connection

July 2013

What is going on with Main Street?



Current Main Street under construction



Artist's rendering of Main Street after completion

Residents may be wondering what is going on down on Main Street in the Old Town area. There is currently construction on the road and vehicle traffic has been rerouted around the area. Good things are coming to Main Street and we thank residents and travelers to the area for their patience while the street is being constructed to look its best.

The City of Manassas is making an investment in the City's Old Town area by improving the streetscape along Main Street from the Norfolk Southern Railroad to Quarry Road. The project has many elements that are intended to make the street more pedestrian friendly and more conducive to citizens and visitors wanting to shop, dine and walk along the street.

"This is another step in the City's strategic plan to promote our vibrant Old Town area and all it has to offer," said Public Works and Utilities Director Mike Moon.

In 2000, the City began recreating the Old Town area by making an investment in the Candy Factory and creating the Loy E. Harris Pavilion. In 2005/06 the sidewalks on Center Street were widened and streetscapes improved. In 2008, improvements were made to Battle Street. Now, throughout the summer, residents

and visitors can take in a band while dining or shopping along Battle Street or attend a cultural event at the Harris Pavilion or the Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory.

"I can hardly wait for the new and improved Main Street! Conducting business as usual during the construction will be a challenge," said Christine M. Finnie, owner of the Whimsical Galerie on Center Street, "but the City has been proactive in getting the word out to residents that Old Town is still open! Previous Old Town improvements - Center Street, Battle Street, the Walkway, and the Harris Pavilion - have seen such great success and Main Street merchants, restaurants and businesses will all benefit from the more welcoming ambiance that will be created outside their doors. I'm sure the wider sidewalks, potential for outdoor dining, and street trees will encourage more visitors to want to spend time on Main Street, as well as the rest of Old Town."

The improvements to Main Street will widen narrow sidewalks from the

current width of four to eight feet up to five and a half to 16 feet. This will allow for outside dining and improved pedestrian areas. The streetscape will add 19 Allee Lacebark Elm and Green Vase Japanese Zelkova trees to the area, and add nice looking brick crosswalks to the street. Parking will include 10 parallel spaces.

According to the City's Commissioner of Revenue John Grzejka, who assesses growth in City business through the meals tax, there has been an increase of almost 50 percent in dining business in the Old Town area since improvements were made to Battle Street in 2009.

The Main Street Streetscapes project budget is \$1.075 million dollars and is currently in the process of being put out to bid. Utility relocations for the project are already underway. Roadwork should start in late July and be completed by Nov. 1, 2013. For questions or concerns about this project, contact Patrick Moore at 703-257-8266.



A Message from the City Manager

Shop local, dine local, spend local, enjoy local . . . You may have seen this on a postcard or two around the City. The truth is if you shop at our local stores and dine in our restaurants, for every \$100 you spend in a small local business, \$68 returns to our community. If you spend that same \$100 in a large chain store only \$43 comes back to our community. And, if you shop online, absolutely nothing comes back to our community.

The City of Manassas is a great community. If you read the article on the front of this publication, you can see that we are investing in the future of this City through our Main Street

Streetscapes Program and many others as well. Projects such as the Main Street Streetscapes will help promote shopping in our local stores, dining in our restaurants, and make the City more pedestrian friendly.

In August the City is hosting a Civil War Weekend. I hope you will stop by and take in some of the activities. While you are in the City, make sure to visit our shops and restaurants. The City of Manassas is a great place to live and raise a family. There is a wealth of history and culture here. I invite you to experience the local businesses who support the area where we live, work and play.



*Interim City Manager
Lawrence D. Hughes*

Protect our Water Resources

Virginia is a water rich state, but that doesn't mean that we have an inexhaustible supply of usable water. We have to protect our resources and use them wisely. Protecting water as a natural resource is difficult. Water flows from property to property, from locality to locality, and even from the surface to underground.

The City of Manassas has more than 5,000 storm drains that feed into our 22 stormwater ponds. Runoff from these drains comes from parking lots, businesses, City streets, construction sites, lawns, roofs, and driveways, anywhere the rain can run into a storm drain. When rain flows into storm drains it brings with it dirt from lawns, construction sites, and farms. Statewide, farmland loses several tons of soil per

acre per year due to stormwater runoff.

How water is used upstream affects its quality downstream. This makes it important to be aware of stormwater and how to protect our resources.

How can you help?

- Clean up animal waste daily. Double bag it, and put it in the trash, not down the storm drain.
- Landscape your yard with mulch, and/or plant ground cover to protect the dirt from washing away.
- Use pesticides sparingly and follow directions. If rain is forecasted, wait for a sunny day. Try using biological treatments as an alternative.
- Be careful when using fertilizers and lawn treatments. Excess on sidewalks

and driveways runs into stormwater ponds.

- Keep your vehicles in good running condition. Take care of any leaks as soon as possible.
- When building a driveway, use porous surfaces such as gravel, flagstone, stone, or interlocking pavers instead of concrete or asphalt.
- Direct down spouts into grassy areas, not down the storm drain.
- Be active. Volunteer for the City's Adopt-a-Street or Spot program or the state's Adopt-a-Stream program.

We all need clean water to live. If everyone pitches in, we can improve our stormwater and protect our water supply.

Recycle Refrigerator Plastics!



Give it a rinse and toss it into the recycling! You can recycle soda and water bottles, plastic tubs like yogurt and margarine, plastic takout containers, condiment bottles, salad dressing bottles, milk and juice jugs, and all plastics labeled 1-7, except styrofoam.



Get Social!

Visit the City at www.manassascity.org.



www.manassascity.org/facebook



www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas



www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas

Put your own photos up at
www.flickr.com/groups/mycityofmanassas.

To contact the City of Manassas Connection newsletter, email pprince@ci.manassas.va.us.

Civil War Weekend - Aug. 23 - 25



The Sesquicentennial of the Civil War commemorations that brought tens of thousands of visitors to the City of Manassas the past two summers, will continue with this year's Civil War Weekend Aug. 23-25. This year's commemoration brings to life military, civilian, and African-American experiences from 150 years ago with a diverse offering of free programs, living history, and exhibits.

Liberia Plantation will once again host re-enactor infantry and artillery units, period musical performances, children's activities featuring period diaries and letters, and African-American history. Tours of the first floor of the house will be offered. Visitors to the plantation will also learn about plans for restoring Liberia Plantation, including plans for the site.

Dylan Pritchett and Marion Dobbins will present performances on slave interpretation, music and storytelling. The site will be open from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. on August 23-25. Parking is available along Portner Ave. near the rear entrance to the house at 8601 Portner Avenue in Manassas. Handicapped access is also available at the Mathis Ave. entrance.

Two exhibits, *Enduring Legacy, Liberia Plantation 1825-2013*, and *There Was A Want of Vigilance: The Battle of Bristoe Station 150th Anniversary*, a guest exhibit by Prince William County's Division of Historic Preservation, will be featured at the Museum. The Manassas Museum will be open free from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. daily, Aug. 23-25.

Events and programs on the museum lawn include living history demonstrations, the return of Lee's

Lieutenants, well known Civil War re-enactors, military drills, medicinal and artillery demonstrations, and period music. Lectures by well known scholars and authors will illuminate lesser known facts of Civil War life.

One of the most distinguished names in Civil War history, Dr. James I. (Bud) Robertson was Executive Director of the U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission and worked with Presidents Truman, Kennedy, and Johnson in marking the war's 100th anniversary. He is the author/editor of more than 20 books, including his award-winning biography of Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson, which inspired the movie *Gods and Generals*. He is presently an Alumni Distinguished Professor and Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech, and a charter member of Virginia's Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission. He will speak about Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.

Other lectures will focus on Confederate raider Colonel John Mosby, Mary Lincoln's dressmaker Elizabeth Keckley, and the establishment of West Virginia.

Special events during the weekend include:

Aug. 23, 2013

- *Stories in Stone*, a special tour of the Manassas City Cemetery, 8 p.m.
- Live music and dancing at the Harris Pavilion, 8 p.m.
- Manassas Museum Exhibits and Gallery, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., FREE
- Battle Street LIVE! 8 - 11 p.m.

Aug. 24, 2013

- Civil War Parade, 10 a.m. in Old Town
- Civil War baseball at Osborn High School, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Old Town Farmers Market, 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Commemoration of Jackson's Raid on the Junction with bourbon tasting, 5:30 p.m.
- Bonfire at dusk on the Museum lawn

- Living history - Manassas Museum and Liberia Plantation, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Tours of Cannon Branch Fort, Mayfield Fort, and Manassas Confederate Cemetery from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Manassas Museum Exhibits and Gallery, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., FREE
- Battle Street LIVE! 8 - 11 p.m.

Aug. 25, 2013

- Interfaith service on the Museum lawn at 9 a.m.
- Manassas Museum Exhibits and Gallery, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., FREE
- Living history at the Manassas Museum and Liberia Plantation, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Tours of Cannon Branch Fort, Mayfield Fort, and Manassas Confederate Cemetery, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Manassas Symphony concert and ice cream social at the Harris Pavilion, 3 p.m.

Old Town merchants and restaurants will also join in the festivities with special sales, food and entertainment offerings. Visit www.manassascivilwar.org for more information.



The City of Manassas Happenings

Here's what's happening in the City of Manassas during July and August.

Now thru July 31 - Near & Far Photography Exhibit - Center for the Arts Caton Merchant Gallery.

www.center-for-the-arts.org

Now thru Sept. 1, Tuesday - Sunday - **Morning Historic Old Town Walking Tours** (11 a.m.) **Afternoon Historic Site Tours** - included in the price of admission to the museum. www.manassasmuseum.org

July & August - Visit the Harris Pavilion for great summer events, including **Take-Out Tuesdays**, evening concerts at the Harris Pavilion, **Wednesday Lunch Concerts** at the Harris Pavilion, **Friday Night Family Movies** and Sunday afternoon **Ice Cream Socials**.

www.harris-pavilion.com

July 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 and Aug. 5, 12, 19 & 26 at 10 a.m. - **Toddler Tyme** for ages 3 to 5 with an adult.

www.manassasmuseum.org

July 4 - **Celebrate America** - Celebrate the 4th of July with one of the largest fireworks displays in Northern Virginia! Events surround the Train Depot, Harris Pavilion, and Manassas Museum. Children's rides open at 3 p.m. The rest of the fun, including food, hayrides, an apple pie contest and live entertainment begins at 4 p.m.

www.visitmanassas.org

July 6, 13, 20 & 27, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - **Museum on the Lawn** - Stop by the Museum lawn and see what is going on.

www.manassasmuseum.org

July 6, 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous Waste and eWaste drop off** at the Manassas Transfer Station, 8305 Quarry Road. www.manassascity.org

July 6, 6:30 - 8 p.m. - **Jamey Turner and his Glass Harp** Summer Sounds Concert by the Center for the Arts at the Harris Pavilion www.harris-pavilion.com

July 12, 6 a.m. - 7 p.m. - **\$5 Jewelry & Accessory Sale** at Novant Health, 8700 Sudley Road, 4th Floor.

July 13, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - **Americans with Disabilities Fair** at the Harris Pavilion www.harris-pavilion.com

July 14, 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Wicked Georgetown Scoundrels, Sinners and Spies** by Camden Schwantes

www.manassasmuseum.org

July 18, 2 - 8 p.m. - Donate blood at the **Red Cross Blood Drive** at the Greater Manassas Volunteer Rescue Squad on Center Street.

July 20, 6:30 - 8 p.m. - **Linda Lay & Springfield Exit** - Bluegrass to Traditional Folk Summer Sounds Concert by the Center for the Arts at the Harris Pavilion

www.harris-pavilion.com

Aug. 3, 6:30 - 8 p.m. - **Andrew McKnight & Beyond Borders** - beyond Appalachian, beyond blues & beyond folk - presented by the Center for the Arts' SummerSounds Concert Series at the Harris Pavilion

www.harris-pavilion.com

Aug. 3, 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous Waste and eWaste drop off** at the Manassas Transfer Station, 8305 Quarry Road. www.manassascity.org

Aug. 3, 10, 17 & 31 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - **Museum on the Lawn** - Stop by the Museum lawn and see what is going on.

www.manassasmuseum.org

Aug. 6 - **National Night Out (NNO)** - Step outside the evening of Aug. 6 and say NO to

crime in your neighborhood. If your neighborhood is not holding a NNO event or after it is over, drop by the Harris Pavilion, the Museum Lawn or Battle Street for the City's NNO event. For more information about a celebration happening in or near your neighborhood, visit www.manassascity.org/police.

Aug. 6 at 6 p.m. - **Manassas Towne Ball** on the Museum Lawn - an evening of music, food and fun as local youth demonstrate the 1800s game of towne ball.

www.manassasmuseum.org

Aug. 17, 6:30 - 8 p.m. - **Dixie Power Trio**, East Coast's premiere "Louisiana variety band" presented by the Center for the Arts' SummerSounds Concert Series at the Harris Pavilion. www.harris-pavilion.com

Aug. 18, 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Matthew Brady, Portraits of a Nation** by Robert Wilson www.manassasmuseum.org

Aug. 23 - 25, **Manassas Civil War Weekend**. Step back in time in Old Town Manassas and experience Civil War events that transformed a sleepy railroad junction into a thriving camp and then a devastated landscape.

Learn about the lives of soldiers and civilians as they faced hardship beyond measure. Civil War at the Junction, a living history commemoration for serious Civil War buffs and families alike, will feature military and medical demonstrations, African-American interpretation, period baseball games, music, food, a bourbon tasting, and a re-enactment remembering General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's 1862 raid on the railroad junction.

www.manassascivilwar.org

Aug. 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - **Annual Chess Tournament** at the Harris Pavilion. Register at www.harris-pavilion.com

Aug. 31, 6:30 - 8 p.m. - **Prince William Community Band** performs patriotic American Music, presented by the Center for the Arts' SummerSounds Concert Series at the Harris Pavilion

www.harris-pavilion.com

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

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