



The City of Manassas Connection

December 2013

Main Street is Open for Business

Local business owners, members of the Chamber of Commerce, members of Historic Manassas, Inc., City of Manassas City Council members and staff gathered to cut a ceremonial ribbon on the Main Street Streetscapes project.

This project, which included 1050 lane feet of construction, widened narrow sidewalks from four feet to up to 16 feet. This allows for outside dining and improved pedestrian areas. The project added 19 Allee Lacebark Elm and Green Vase Japanese Zelkova trees to the area, and nice looking brick crosswalks at the cross streets.

The Main Street Streetscapes project is part of the City's continuing investment in the Old Town area in an effort to attract visitors and enhance their experience in the City of Manassas. 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 see Main Street merchants, restaurants and businesses benefitting from the more welcoming ambiance

outside their doors," said Mayor Harry J. Parrish II. "I'm sure the wider sidewalks, outdoor dining, and trees will encourage more visitors to spend time on Main Street, as they do on Battle Street and in other areas of Old Town."

The Main Street Streetscapes project is a Capital Improvement Program project with a budget of \$1.075 million, with \$100,000 going to design costs and \$975,000 for construction.



Happy Holidays

The City of Manassas is decking the halls in preparation for Merry Old Town. Join the City of Manassas at one of the many holiday events in the City.

On Dec. 6 from 5:30 to 8 p.m., enjoy the **Tree Lighting** celebration on the Lawn at the Manassas Museum. On Dec. 7 at 10 a.m., watch the **68th Annual Christmas Parade** as it marches through Old Town Manassas.

The festivities continue with **Merry Old Town** on Dec. 6 - 8. Enjoy free horse-drawn carriage rides through Old Town, meet Santa and enjoy shopping and dining along the way. Free carriage rides are also available Dec. 15 & 22 from 1 to 4 p.m. starting from the Train Depot.

The Harris Pavilion will be open for ice skating all winter. Check out the **Winter Wonderland Train Show** at the

Center for the Arts on Dec. 11 - 15. And get in the holiday mood at the Manassas Museum with their exhibit of antique doll houses and Christmas ornaments. There's so much to see and do in the City of Manassas that we can't list it all. Visit www.visitmanassas.org for a full list of holiday events.

A Message from the City Manager



*City Manager
William Patrick Pate*

Now that Thanksgiving is over and we are enjoying the holiday season, I find that I, like many of you, have much to be thankful for. Many of us are blessed with good family and friends, a warm and dry place to call home, food in abundance (particularly compared to many other

parts of the world), freedom to pursue our dreams, and a community that is active, engaged and striving to get even better.

I hope that you will also join me in giving thanks for those folks who are striving every day to make sure that our City is safe, that our public infrastructure is being taken care of, and that all our citizens have the opportunity to enjoy the amenities in the City of Manassas that add to our quality of life.

When you can drive on a safe street because someone plowed the snow during the night, wake up in a warm house with a warm shower because the electricity and water were produced and delivered to your home, hear a siren and know that someone is there to respond to the emergency, see children coming home from a day of learning in a safe environment, hear about a problem that

was resolved to help a neighbor or even a neighborhood in need, or attend a holiday event occurring in a public space, remember all of the folks (many of them volunteers) that work to make our City great.

Speaking of events, I hope that you are taking advantage of the many events happening in the City of Manassas and are doing your holiday (or post-holiday) shopping in the City. Local support of our events and businesses is vital to our community.

So, as we count our blessings this year, join me in remembering those who are less fortunate, and in thanking those who work every day to help enrich our lives and our community.

What did you do last night?

Did you run into a burning building? You would have to be crazy. The truth of the matter is that fire fighters do not actually run headlong into burning buildings. Despite appearances, fighters assess the situation, then decide on a plan of action.

But, how is this done so quickly? Training, dedication and experience. For the last 122 years the City of Manassas and surrounding areas have been protected by volunteer and career fire fighters who work together to protect our residents.

You can be a part of this rewarding program. If you are at least 18 years old and have the desire to serve your community, join the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company. It's easy. Contact the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company at

www.manassasfire.com or come by the station at 9322 Centreville Road. All are welcome to apply.

After passing a physical and a criminal background check, volunteers receive all the training, equipment and uniforms needed by today's fire fighter at no charge to the volunteer. Being a volunteer is not only rewarding, but fun. Look for us in the Manassas Christmas Parade. Later in December we will drive Santa in an antique fire engine to greet children and hand out candy canes.

If you want to be part of the crew, but not fight fires, Manassas Volunteer Fire has a robust Fire Auxiliary program. Members are part of every operation



in the Fire Company outside of fire operations. Your talents will be a welcome addition to the team.

Join the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company in one of the most rewarding activities around.



Be a good neighbor this winter. Shovel your sidewalk.

City residents are required, by City Code 114-634, to remove snow from their sidewalks within 12 hours after the snow has ended or by 5 p.m. when the snow event is at night.

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 prrince@ci.manassas.va.us.

2013 Neighborhood Conference Success

Jorge Gonzalez, one of 14 Osbourn High School "Youth Salute" leaders, who also received national recognition during a leadership trip to St. Louis's Washington University last month, helped to open the 7th Annual City of Manassas Neighborhood Conference on Nov. 16. Approximately 325 attendees participated in workshops and toured the Manassas campus of Northern Virginia Community College and participate in the all-day event. Six workshops were repeated three times each to offer attendees information and tips geared to both education and city neighborhood issues.

"I've lived here 24 years and did not know all these resources were here," said Gene Gantz, a resident of Georgian Hamlet condominiums. "I just retired and was looking at possibly taking some financial courses. I like being on the college campus."

Attendees offered feedback on *The New Civil Penalties* presented by Property Senior Property Code Supervisor Paul Lynch and Senior Planner Martin Brim, and learned about Community Development Block Grants in Prince William Housing Advocate Joanie Duckett's workshop, *Housing 101*. Georgetown South Community residents Hannah Senft and Candice Savannah shared their plans to help the neighborhood celebrate 50 years in 2014. "I have a fond place in my heart for Georgetown South," responded Duckett, who has worked with Senft in the past. "What a well-built, solid neighborhood."

Activities to engage children and teens in the Youth Café included face painting, carnival games, a puppet show, and karaoke in Colgan Theatre, as well as a hands-on visit to the Robotics lab

in Parrish Hall. Walgreens gave out free flu shots, and provided free health screenings.

NOVA-Manassas provost Dr. Roger Ramsammy delivered the conference's keynote address, sharing his personal journey from poverty in Trinidad to earning a doctorate in molecular biology at Howard University in Washington D.C. Ramsammy challenged youth to embrace technology and science and be the ones to discover how to break the genetic code on cancer.

Neighborhood Services Manager Kisha-Wilson Sogunro announced the winners of the 2013 Neighborhood Awards. Sumner Lake and Cannon Ridge tied for the "Best Neighborhood Communication" award; and Sumner Lake won the "Best Neighborhood of the Year" award. Award winners will be honored at a City Council meeting, along with neighborhood conference sponsors.



Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

While you are doing your holiday shopping, keep in mind some simple tips to keep you and your purchases safe:

- ✓ Make sure shopping bags and purchases are out of site in your car.
- ✓ Keep your car doors locked, even when pumping gas.
- ✓ Store serial numbers for large purchases in a safe place.
- ✓ Always be aware of your surroundings.
- ✓ Be careful not to overload yourself with packages so that you can see where you are going.
- ✓ Check out www.manassas-city.org/30ways for more helpful tips.



Trash Service Notice

American Disposal Services will not be collecting trash and recycling on Christmas, Dec.25 or New Year's Day, Jan. 1. If you have a regular Wednesday collection, your trash and recycling will be collected on Saturday, Dec. 28 and Saturday, Jan. 4. No other trash and recycling schedules will be affected. Please refrain from putting your trash out until the evening before pick up. Thank you.

City of Manassas Trash Line - 703-257-8252

The City of Manassas Happenings

Here's what's happening in the City of Manassas during December and January.

Ice Skating at the Harris Pavilion
www.harris pavilion.com

The **Farmers Market** is now open on its winter schedule, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursdays and Saturdays. You won't want to miss out on all of the fresh produce.
www.visitmanassas.org

Through Dec. 24 - Osbourn High School **Wrapping Booth** at Manassas Mall

Dec. 1, 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Mark Twain in Washington, D.C.** by John Muller
www.manassasmuseum.org

Dec. 1 - 31 - **Holiday Ornament and Dollhouse Exhibit** at the Manassas Museum.
www.manassasmuseum.org

Dec. 1, 4 - 6 p.m. - **A Chanticleer Christmas**
www.hyltoncenter.org

Dec. 2 - **2014 Dog Licenses** are available at the Treasurer's Office.
www.manassascity.org/doglicense

Dec. 2 - **2014 Parking Permits available** - must be displayed by Jan. 1, 2014.
www.manassascity.org/parking

Dec. 5, 2013 - First half of **2014 Real Estate Tax** bills are due.
www.manassascity.org/taxes

Dec. 6, 5:30 to 8 p.m. - **Manassas Museum Open House** - free admission
www.manassasmuseum.org

Dec. 6, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. - **\$5 Jewelry and Accessory Sale** at Novant Health Prince William Medical Center, 8700 Sudley Road, Medical Office Building 1, 4th Floor.

Dec. 6, 5:30 to 8 p.m. - Merry Old Town **Christmas Tree Lighting**. Come celebrate the lighting of the Christmas tree and meet Santa as he arrives by VRE train at 6 p.m. The tree lighting is at 6:30 p.m. at the Manassas Museum.

www.visitmanassas.org



Dec. 6 - 8 - **Merry Old Town** - Start your holidays off right. Enjoy free carriage rides through Old Town, meet Santa and enjoy shopping and dining along the way. Free carriage rides are also available Dec. 15 & 22 from 1-4 p.m. starting from the Train Depot.
www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 6, 8 to 10 p.m. - **Danú: Christmas in Ireland: An Nollaig in Éirinn**
www.hyltoncenter.org

Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to noon - **68th Annual Greater Manassas Christmas Parade**
www.gmchristmasparade.org

Dec. 8, 1 to 5 p.m. - GFWC Woman's Club of Manassas **Holiday Homes Tour** - call (703) 368-6183 or (703) 365-8604.

Dec. 11 - 15, 5-8 p.m. Wed. - Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat., and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sun. Come visit the **Winter Wonderland Train Show** at the Center for the Arts.
www.center-for-the-arts.org

Dec. 13, 8 to 10 p.m. - American Festival Pops Orchestra: **Holiday Pops: Songs of the Season**
www.hyltoncenter.org

Dec. 14, 5, 5:45, 6:30 and 7:15 p.m. - **Tour Liberia Plantation** decked out in its 1860's holiday finery. Space is limited.
www.manassasmuseum.org

Dec. 15, 4 - 6 p.m. - **Vienna Boys Choir: Christmas in Vienna**
www.hyltoncenter.org

Dec. 19 - Jan. 29 - **Off the Wall #10** - an exhibit of local high school visual arts and poetry on display at Caton Merchant Family Gallery. www.center-for-the-arts.org

Dec. 20 - 23 - Manassas Ballet Theatre performs the **Nutcracker** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center.
www.hyltoncenter.org

Jan. 6 - Feb. 12 - **The Long March**, a new exhibit at the Manassas Museum featuring the work of cartoonist Herb Block. The exhibit chronicles the Civil Rights movement.
www.manassasmuseum.org

Jan. 14 at 10 a.m. - **Pre-K Tuesday** at the Manassas Museum.
www.manassasmuseum.org

Jan. 25, noon to 5 p.m. - **Annual Winter Festival** at the Harris Pavilion, live music, free 'smores and broomball.
www.harris pavilion.com

Jan. 25 & 26 - **The Wizard of Oz** by Pied Piper Theatre at the Hylton Performing Arts Center.
www.hyltoncenter.org

Jan. 26, 2 p.m. - **Free Book Talk** by author Robert S. Pohl - **Urban Legends & Lore of Washington D.C.**
www.manassasmuseum.org

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

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Happy Holidays!

