



The City of Manassas Connection

January 2014

Thank You for Giving Back!

The City of Manassas would like to start the New Year off right by thanking all those who have given so much to the community. There are so many in our community who do wonderful things for their neighbors. We hope you will enjoy the following heartwarming stories collected over 2013 of community members and City staff giving back.

Cub Scouts Feed Families

Thank you to Cub Scout Pack #1204 who donated 370 pounds of non-perishable food items to the food pantry at the City of Manassas Department of Family Services. This generous donation will go a long way in assisting families in the City of Manassas. The Department of Family Services operates the Virginia Social Services SNAP program (formerly known as food stamps), but sometimes families may have a more immediate need and this pantry is now ready to help.

This was truly a community effort. In an effort to determine exactly how much food was collected and report it to the Boy Scouts of America National Capital Area Council, the local Post Master, Daniel Grant, allowed representatives of the Cub Scout Pack to use a scale to weigh the food.

This is a wonderful example of the community working together to make life better for others. If you are interested in donating food to the food pantry to help local families, call 703-361-8277 extension 2347.

Group Hug

The death of a loved one is a very hard time for any family, and when that loved one is taken too early it can be especially hard. As nieces and nephews mourned the death of their favorite uncle, they found themselves overwhelmed by the prospect of cleaning out his home of 35 years.

Before tackling what seemed like an insurmountable task, the family contacted the City of Manassas Neighborhood Services Division. Staff of the City embraced the family and worked to organize 150 volunteers who helped remove furniture and collectibles from the home. These volunteers also cleared the brush from around the home, which took four City dump trucks to remove.

While family members thanked the volunteers and showed their appreciation, the volunteers joined in on a group hug to lift the family up in their time of need.

Love Thy Neighbor

For the third year in a row, as old man winter rolled into the City of Manassas, one young family braced for the bitter cold without heat. Through block parties and play dates, neighbors got to know the family and learned of their needs. News of the family's plight spread throughout the community inspiring caring members to take action.

During the summer months, neighbors, non-profits and community groups called on Lowe's Home Improvement Store and area non-profit groups to help install a hot water heater, build a deck, and complete an unfinished drywall installation in the basement.

This outpouring of neighbors helping neighbors ensured that the family is now warm and cared for during the winter months. This year, the family is thankful for the heat they enjoy and for all the help they received from their neighbors and the community.

Community of Caring

This summer the Neighborhood Services team learned that there was a resident in her mid 80s who needed help in her yard with overgrown bushes and an old tool shed. The resident and her husband had located in the City in the

mid 1950s. She had lost her husband of 66 years just a few months prior and was overwhelmed with the work the yard required. She knew it would take her and her son many months to make even a slight dent in the project.

Neighborhood Services facilitated recruiting volunteers from the Life Church on Balls Ford Road, and on a Saturday morning, just 3 months and a day after her husband's passing, a crew of more than 50 showed up to work in the yard. The group pruned bushes, tore down the old shed, erected a new shed the family provided, and hauled more than 8 truck loads of debris from the yard. The family worked alongside the volunteers and accomplished in a day what would have taken the resident a long time and a great deal of effort. The family provided lunch for the crew and a great deal of gratitude.

A House Restored to Grandeur

For more than 15 years, the house at 9300 Prescott Ave. had been the subject of much discussion and concern for the City of Manassas. The home had been under a demolition order several times due to safety concerns and was scheduled to be torn down in the summer.

Right before the order for demolition was given, a group from the community, led by Hugh Ickrath, stepped in to save Prescott House. The neighbors on Prescott Ave. worked tirelessly to restore the house and make it into the once grand southern home it had been in the 1900s. Now this home, which sits at the entrance to the City, is a testament to the word "community."

We would like to thank all of the great community volunteers and staff who make the City of Manassas a great place to live, work, play and do business.

A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
William Patrick Pate

I hope that you and your families had a blessed and enjoyable holiday season. Amid all of the hustle and bustle of the season, it is easy to get lost in all of the activities that we think need to be done instead of just trying to enjoy family,

friends and neighbors or even just some quiet time for reflection on the past year and the opportunities that await us in the New Year.

The first page of this newsletter gives just a few examples of the many ways that members of this community “gave back” to others during the past year without thought of recognition. They just wanted to make a difference in someone’s life. I am sure these are just a few of the many stories that could be told about the generosity and caring spirit of the people of the City of Manassas.

Speaking of other examples of giving back to the community, my wife and I experienced our first City of Manassas Christmas Tree Lighting and Christmas Parade. We enjoyed seeing all of the businesses, schools, non-profits and public officials from the greater Manassas

area participating and having fun in the parade. I am glad that I did not have to judge all those wonderful parade entries! These are just two of the many wonderful events that showcase the family-friendly nature of our community and the many organizations that are making a difference in the lives of others. Thanks to the many folks who participated and in particular those who provided the organization to make these holiday events possible.

I am looking forward to many more first time experiences in the City of Manassas during the coming year.

Manassas Regional Airport wins Award

The Manassas Regional Airport and the design firm of Reynolds, Smith & Hills were recently awarded the Award of Merit in the Airports/Transit category of the Engineering News-Record’s (ENR) 2013 Best Projects. They received the award for the runway extension project.

This project, which cost \$4.4 million to complete, extended the primary runway at Manassas Regional Airport to 6,200 feet. The five-phase construction project was made possible through grants from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Virginia Department of Aviation (DOAV).

The project involved some creative thinking and teamwork as the team had to contend with floodplains and a 100-year floodway. On top of that, during the project, Superstorm Sandy blew through

the area and still, all work was completed for operational use within 140 days.

ENR recognizes projects for excellence for the following criteria: overcoming challenges and teamwork; safety; innovation and contribution to the industry/community; construction quality and craftsmanship; and functionality of design and aesthetic quality.



Reminder

2014 Parking Permits and Dog Licenses must be displayed beginning Jan. 1, 2014.



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.

Keep Your Family Safe and Warm

With the temperature dropping, using portable heating devices to help keep homes and offices warm becomes more common. Taking a few safety measures can help ensure a safe, warm home or office through the upcoming winter. Heating equipment is the leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January and February.

Portable Electric Heaters

Keep furniture and other combustible items at least three feet away from heaters. Electric heaters are temporary heating devices that should only be used for a limited time each day. Never connect

an electric heater to an outlet with an extension cord or use a heater that has a damaged or frayed cord. When not in use, be sure to unplug the unit and let it cool down. Never use heaters to dry clothing or other combustibles.



Coal and Wood Burning Stoves

Use coal only if specifically approved by the stove manufacturer. Gasoline or other flammable liquids should never be used to start a wood fire since it might explode or flare up. Never use gasoline in kerosene heaters. The directions on artificial logs made from wax and sawdust say they should be used one at a time in fireplaces and never used in wood stoves. This is because the heat can melt the log causing it to flare up or leak burning liquid from the appliance

Barbecues

Barbecues should never be used indoors as a heating or cooking device. Barbecues produce large amounts of carbon monoxide and are not intended for indoor use.

Fireplaces

Before using the fireplace make sure the flue is open. The flue is a trap door that keeps heat out in the summer and cool air from coming in when the fireplace is not in use. Artificial logs made from wax and sawdust should be used one at a

time. Pressure-treated wood should not be burned in stoves or fireplaces because it contains toxic chemicals that can make you sick. Never leave a fireplace unattended. Chimneys and vents should be inspected and cleaned annually by a professional chimney sweep.

Kerosene Heaters

Only use clean kerosene fuel. Never fill with gasoline, diesel fuel, or any other flammable liquid. Always take the heater outdoors to a safe location to re-fill and make sure that the unit is off when re-filling. Kerosene Heaters produce carbon monoxide (CO) gas. Be sure to have a working CO detector in your home as well as a smoke alarm.



Concerned about snow this winter?

The City of Manassas is ready to clear the roads if/when it snows this winter with 16 snow-removal trucks, 22 pieces of contract equipment, 1,500 tons of road salt and almost 500 tons of sand.

What can you do to help?

- ✳ Remove all snow and ice from the sidewalk in front of your residence. This is a nice thing to do for other residents and it is a requirement in the City code.
- ✳ Don't park on a snow emergency route if snow is in the forecast. These are streets that will be plowed first in a snow/ice storm. Four hours after a snow emergency has been declared, cars may be ticketed or towed to clear the route.

How can you save money on your heating bill?

- ✳ Get your furnace cleaned and checked regularly.
- ✳ Check air filters and change them.
- ✳ Turn on ceiling fans, but reverse the direction to direct heat more evenly in your home.
- ✳ Use natural sunlight when possible to help heat up the home. Keep blinds open.
- ✳ Make sure you insulate the water heater.
- ✳ Use a programmable thermostat.
- ✳ Use weather strips or caulk to seal up air leaks.
- ✳ Make sure your home is properly insulated and use cover outlets along outside walls.

More energy saving tips can be found at <http://energy.gov>.



The City of Manassas Happenings

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

Skate for free on Wednesday nights, 6 - 8 p.m. in January at the Harris Pavilion
www.harris pavilion.com

Now through the end of March, Saturdays at 11 a.m. - **Winter Tours and Talks** at the Manassas Museum.
www.manassasmuseum.org

Now through Jan. 29 - **Off The Wall** art exhibit in Caton Merchant Family Gallery at the Center for the Arts. High school students from the area compete in this exhibit of poetry and visual arts sponsored by Lockheed Martin.
www.center-for-the-arts.org

Now through 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 s'mores 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

Feb. 8 & 22 at 11 a.m. - **Liberia Basement to Attic Tours**, \$15/person - Learn more about the diverse people who inhabited Liberia during Black History Month tours.
www.manassasmuseum.org

Feb. 8 from 12 to 5 p.m. - **Cartoon Skate** - skate with your favorite cartoon characters, free s'mores - (admission/skate rental fees apply)
www.harris pavilion.com

Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. - **Imago - FROGZ** - Dance and acrobatics
www.HyltonCenter.org

Feb. 9, 2 p.m. - **Free Book Talk - Hope Amid Hardship** with Linda Johnston.
www.manassasmuseum.org

Feb. 9 at 4 p.m. - **Haifa Symphony Orchestra** of Israel
www.HyltonCenter.org

Feb. 18 at 12:30 p.m. - **Matinee Idylls: Marcolivia**
www.HyltonCenter.org

Feb. 22 at 8 p.m. - **Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel: The Power and Passion of Beethoven**
www.HyltonCenter.org

Feb. 23, 2 p.m. - **Free Book Talk - The Maps of the Bristoe Station and Mine Run Campaigns** with Bradley Gottfried.
www.manassasmuseum.org

Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. - **The Peking Acrobats**
www.HyltonCenter.org

March 2 at 4 p.m. - **The Acting Company: Hamlet**
www.HyltonCenter.org

March 15 at 11 a.m. - **The Greater Manassas St. Patrick's Day Parade**
<http://stpatparade.net>

March 15 & 16 - **Leahy**
www.HyltonCenter.org

March 23 at 2 p.m. - **Free Book Talk** with Donald A. Hopkins - *Robert E. Lee In War and Peace: Photographs of a Confederate and American Icon*
www.manassasmuseum.org

March 23 - Pushcart Players: *Happily Ever After - A Cinderella Tale*
www.HyltonCenter.org

March 25 at 12:30 p.m. - Matinee Idylls: **Dancing Heart Ensemble**
www.HyltonCenter.org

A Message from the Manassas City Police Department

Still need a New Year's resolution? Consider making the decision to take charge of your own personal safety. To explore ways the Manassas City Police Department can help, visit www.manassascity.org/Police.

Did you know...?

The majority of stalking victims are stalked by someone they know. 66% of female victims and 41% of male victims of stalking are stalked by a current or former intimate partner. January is National Stalking Awareness Month. Learn more at stalkingawarenessmonth.org.



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