



The City of Manassas Connection

April 2014

MCPD Earns Highest Accreditation

At the March 24 City Council Meeting, the Manassas City Police Department formally received the highest accreditation possible from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., (CALEA) - Gold Standard with Excellence.

“This is truly an inspiring accomplishment,” said City Manager William Patrick Pate. “Only two percent of law enforcement agencies across the country have earned this honor. Congratulations to the MCPD.”

There is a three-year process to become CALEA accredited. A law enforcement agency must first enroll in the process, then complete a self-assessment and undergo an audit by onsite investigators. The Commission then evaluates and decides on the accreditation for each locality and awards those in compliance. The audit helps agencies improve the delivery of public safety services to the community by holding the agency to a variety of standards developed by public safety

practitioners. The Manassas City Police Department was 100 percent compliant in all areas surveyed by CALEA.

“I am honored to have received this accreditation,” said Chief of Police Doug

Keen. “I have always known that the City of Manassas has a top notch police department and am proud of the men and women who serve on our force.”



L to R: Mr. Hartley, CALEA, City Manager William Patrick Pate, Betty Moriarty, MCPD, Lt. John Bisek, Mayor Harry J. Parrish II, Chief Doug Keen.

City of Manassas on Top Communities in Virginia List

The City of Manassas has been recognized as one of the 30 Safest Cities (communities) in Virginia by SafeWise.com. SafeWise combined data from recent FBI Crime Reports with their own research to create a list of the safest communities in Virginia. In creating this list, SafeWise analyzed the number of violent crimes, as well as property crimes, then calculated the chance of these crimes happening out of one thousand persons in order to level the playing field for cities of varying populations.

“I am pleased that the City has received this recognition and confident in our efforts to keep residents safe,”

said City Manager William Patrick Pate. “The Manassas City Police Department has been recognized with the highest designation for law enforcement – CALEA’s Gold Standard with Excellence.”

On their website, SafeWise commented that, “Manassas exemplifies 21st century hometown America.” They also recognized the City’s community events, arts and shopping, along with the City’s 11 parks and bicycle paths.

The SafeWise report stated, “Dedicated to family health, Manassas is a safe city that will help every member of your family feel good.” According to SafeWise, there is a low chance of being

a victim of a violent crime or a property crime when you call the City of Manassas home.

“This designation, along with achieving CALEA’s highest accreditation, demonstrates the commitment and hard work of the members of the MCPD and City Government to ensure our residents and visitors are safe,” said Chief of Police Doug Keen.



A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
William Patrick Pate

As we move into spring, a major focus for the City is completing the budget process for our fiscal year (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015). Producing a budget is more than just working with a series of numbers. This process involves establishing broad goals based on community needs, creating approaches to achieving those goals, developing a budget consistent with these goals and, finally, evaluating performance and making adjustments for the future. Too often the general budget discussion gets overly focused on the tax rate, but the rate is only one small part of a very complex system that is necessary to maintain a healthy community.

In reality, just like in any other complex organization, the budget process is a year-round effort that involves ongoing planning, monitoring and adjusting for changing conditions and circumstances. Snow removal is a good example of a service where we have spent 3 to 4 times what was anticipated during this winter. Likewise, in dealing with the proposed budget we have attempted

to meet the community needs that are necessary to maintain our quality of life and a healthy community.

In support of the Council adopted goals, financial forecast highlights of the proposed budget include \$51.4 million in general support for Manassas City Public Schools. This is a 4.2 percent increase in funding for education. This includes issuing bonds to replace Baldwin Elementary School continuing our efforts to enhance community facilities.

In economic development, funds are included that support an emphasis on business development and growth. Public safety funds are included to maintain police officers and firefighters previously funded by grants. An additional \$1.5 million is budgeted for contractual obligations to fund detention services. This increase is due in large part to reductions in state funding for the judicial system, resulting in longer incarceration times that are funded on a local level.

The proposed and advertised tax rate of \$1.383 is one cent lower than the current rate and would maintain the average residential tax bill as one of the lowest in Northern Virginia. Assessments have increased, which means that the average homeowner will be paying slightly more even with the lower tax rate. Higher assessments also mean that our local economy is more positive and that homes are worth more than in previous years. The Mayor and City Council will hold a public hearing on the budget on April 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

More budget details are available at www.manassascity.org/budget.

City Bond Rating Upgraded

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services raised its rating on the City of Manassas' general obligation (GO) debt from AA to AA+ with a stable outlook. This rating reflects the City's strong economy, strong wealth and income, and low unemployment.

"We live in a wonderful City with a very strong sense of community," said City Manager William Patrick Pate. "I believe it is this sense of community and the efforts by City staff that has led S&P to upgrade our rating."

In its upgrade, S&P referenced the City's location, participation in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metropolitan Statistical Area or MSA and said that they believe Manassas will likely maintain its historically strong financial flexibility and liquidity, including strong general fund reserves. The bond rating upgrade helps the City's credit worthiness in selling general obligation bonds for Capital Improvement Projects and may result in a reduced interest rate incurred by the City.

According to S&P, the rating upgrade demonstrates the City of Manassas' very strong budgetary flexibility, strength in management and strong financial policies and practices.

S&P CREDIT RATING

AA+

It's Time for Summer Camp!

Summer is right around the corner. Are you thinking about summer camp for your children yet? The Freedom Center, the Boys and Girls Club and the Center for the Arts offer a variety of camps to choose from.

Find out about summer camps in and around the City of Manassas at www.manassascity.org/camps.



Spring Cleaning Day

Saturday, April 19, 2014, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Harris Pavilion

It's the time of year to let the fresh air in and clean those closets out! James Parker, a frequent guest on The Food Network, will showcase his amazing veggie art!

Free fitness classes will be held on the Manassas Museum lawn beginning at 10 a.m., and you can save lives by giving blood at the Inova Blood Donor Services Bloodmobile. Help your children make an earth friendly art project. Stop by the Farmer's Market for great fresh produce.

Meet with local non-profits to learn about recycling; and while you are there, participate in the Community Shred event. The Shredding Truck will be located on West Street (between Center and Church Street). Attendees are asked to park in the back of the BB&T parking lot and form a line along West Street to drop off their documents to be shredded.

The Manassas Lioness Club booth will be accepting donations of glasses, ink cartridges and all sorts of electronics, like

e-readers, laptops, cameras and more.

We hope you will join us to clean up, clean out and renew at the 2014 Spring Cleaning Day.

Visit

www.visitmanassas.org
for more information

Tips for your Spring Cleaning

Spring has come to the City of Manassas! After being cooped up all winter long, City residents are flinging open the windows and sprucing up homes as part of their annual spring cleaning. Make sure that your spring cleaning is more environmentally friendly by disposing of your Household Hazardous Waste safely.



Household Hazardous Waste is a term used to describe any product labeled: toxic, poison, combustible, corrosive, flammable or irritant that is disposed of after use. A typical home can contain an array of household hazardous products for cleaning, painting, beautifying, lubricating and disinfecting the house, yard, workshop and garage.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, each person in the United States produces an average of four pounds of household hazardous waste a year. As much as 100 pounds can accumulate in the home, often remaining there until residents move out or do an extensive cleaning.

Five steps you can take to reduce your Household Hazardous Waste:

1. Buy only what you need.
2. Read and follow labels.
3. Store properly and in labeled containers.
4. Take leftovers to a certified drop-off site.
5. Use safe alternative products when possible.

The Manassas Waste Transfer Station will take your Household Hazardous Waste free of charge on the first Saturday of every month from 8 a.m. – 12 noon. Don't forget to bring your utility bill to show as identification.

For more information, visit our website: www.manassascity.org/recycle or call Monica Boehringer, Refuse and Recycling Coordinator at 703-257-8252.

Litter Enforcement Month 2014

In April, there is a host of springtime happenings for residents to participate in - Earth Day, Arbor Day and Spring Cleaning Day, to name a few. The sense of renewal abounds. And, the City of Manassas is taking part as well. The 4th Annual Litter Enforcement Month, started by the Alice Ferguson Foundation, is April 1-30.

The main goal of Litter Enforcement Month is to restore the integrity of our local watershed resources, raise awareness about litter's negative impact on our neighborhoods and quality of life, and to reduce crime.

In honor of Litter Enforcement Month, the Manassas City Police Department will step up litter enforcement efforts on illegal dumping, littering and graffiti.

Did you know that if your neighborhood is hosting a clean up event, you can invite the Manassas City Police Department to attend? Visit www.manassascity.org/PoliceEventRequest to request officers at your event.

Please do your part to put litter in its place. Future generations will thank you.



The City of Manassas Happenings

Here's what's happening in the City of Manassas during April and May. We have been asked why we do the event dates over two months. The City Utility bills are sent out on a cycle, so that some residents get the bill and newsletter at the beginning of the month, while others get it later in the month. We include two months of events so that no matter when residents receive the newsletter, they will have events to choose from. For those who receive the newsletter at the end of the month and wish to receive it earlier, we post it online at the beginning of each month at www.manassascity.org.

Now through April 21 - **Reflections** an exhibit produced by Osbourn High School students at the Manassas Museum.

www.manassasmuseum.org

Through April 12 on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. - Rooftop Productions' **Don't Dress for Dinner** www.center-for-the-arts.org

Old Town Walking Tours - Thursdays at noon in April and May and daily after May 24 at 11 a.m. through August 30.

www.manassasmuseum.org

Through April 25 - **Michael B. Platt Art Exhibit** at the Center for the Arts.

www.center-for-the-arts.org

April 5, 8 a.m. to noon - **Hazardous Household Waste and eWaste drop off** at the Manassas Transfer Station at 8305 Quarry Road, Manassas.

www.manassascity.org

April 6 at 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk with Daniel Carroll Toomey - **The War Came by Train - The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad During the Civil War** www.manassasmuseum.org

April 8 & May 13 at 10 a.m. - **Pre-K Tuesday** at the Manassas Museum

www.manassasmuseum.org

April 10 & 11 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **Tupperware and Books Are Fun** at Novant Health Prince William Medical Center - 8700 Sudley Road, Medical Office Building 1, 4th Floor

April 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **H.E.A.T. VIN Etching Event** at The Shops at Signal Hill Shopping Center (in front of the Signal Hill Starbucks)

www.manassascity.org/police

April 12, 9 - 11 a.m. - **Bicycle Tour** of historic sites by the Manassas Museum.

www.manassasmuseum.org

April 12 & 13 - Tao: **Pheonix Rising**

www.HyltonCenter.org

April 15-19 - **Hop Around Old Town**

www.visitmanassas.org

April 19, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - **Spring Cleaning Day** www.visitmanassas.org

April 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **DEA Drug Take Back Event** at Novant Health Prince William Medical Center

www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback

April 27 at 2 p.m. - **Free Book Talk** with Robert Plumb - **Your Brother in Arms: Union Soldier's Odyssey**

www.manassasmuseum.org

April 27 at 7:30 a.m. - **Runway 10K\5K** at the Manassas Regional Airport.

www.manassasrunway10K.com

May - October, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - **Museum at the Market** - visit the City's Farmers Market to find out what the Museum staff are up to.

www.manassasmuseum.org

May 2, 6 - 9:30 p.m. - **Spring Gallery Walk**

www.visitmanassas.org

May 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - **2014 Airshow** at the Manassas Regional Airport. You won't want to miss a minute of it!

www.marbainc.com

May 3, 2 p.m. - **Architectural Tour of Old Town Homes**

www.manassasmuseum.org

May 3, 10 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. - **Arts Alive**

www.HyltonCenter.org

May 10, 9 - 11 a.m. - **Bicycle Tour** of historic sites by the Manassas Museum.

www.manassasmuseum.org

May 10 at 7:30 p.m. - Manassas Symphony Orchestra: **Romantic Masterworks**

www.HyltonCenter.org

May 16, 8 p.m. - **Cemetery Tour** with the Manassas Museum

www.manassasmuseum.org

May 16-18 - Manassas Ballet Theatre presents the classic **Sleeping Beauty** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center.

www.manassasballet.org

May 18, 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk with Chris Mackowski - **The Last Days with Stonewall Jackson** www.manassasmuseum.org

May 18, 12-6 p.m. - **Lions 5th Annual Spring Vendor Fair & Wine Tasting**

www.visitmanassas.org

May 31, 7:30 p.m. - Manassas Chorale: **Twentieth Anniversary Concert**

www.HyltonCenter.org

Don't forget to stop by one of the Farmer's Markets on Thursdays and Saturdays all summer long from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Tuesday Farmer's Market will begin June 3, 5 to 8 p.m. at the Harris Pavilion.

www.visitmanassas.org

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

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