



The City of Manassas Connection

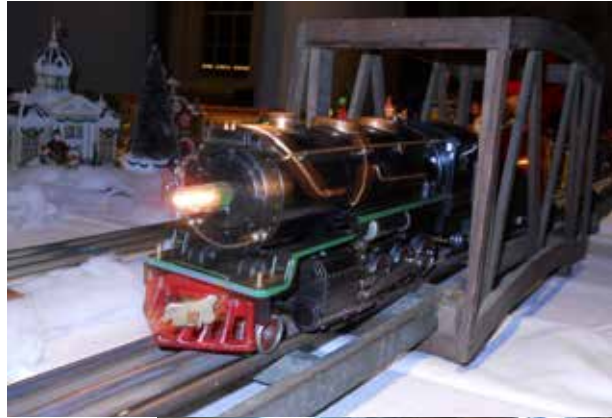
November 2014

For the Love of Trains

The Winter Wonderland Train Show is on track to begin Dec. 10 and run through Dec. 14 at the Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory (9419 Battle Street). Admission to the show is a donation of food or money to benefit SERVE, the Candy Factory's sponsored local charity.

This year, the show features both the latest trains from today's major manufacturers, a 28 x 8 foot Standard Gauge layout and trains from the early 20th Century. Show hours are Wednesday through Friday from 5 to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Santa usually makes an appearance on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

The Winter Wonderland Train Show is presented by the National Capital Trackers and the Center for the Arts. The National Capital Trackers are an award winning "O" Gauge modular railroad club that supports 24-26 shows annually in the Washington, D.C. area.



Watch Council Meetings in a New Way

The City of Manassas has unveiled COMTV, a new service through the City's website where viewers may either watch streaming video of live City Council Meetings or watch previous meetings on-demand. Viewers who wish to stream live City Council meetings may visit www.manassascity.org/mediacenter.

Those who wish to watch a certain item in a City Council Meeting may visit www.manassascity.org/comtv, click on the meeting to be viewed then click on the item the viewer is interested in. By clicking on the agenda item, the film will advance directly to that portion of the meeting.

In this way, you can skip to exactly the part of the meeting you want to see when you want to see it. This new service is part of our continuing effort to keep residents and visitors to the City of Manassas more informed and involved with their local government.

A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
William Patrick Pate

Over the past several months I have continued to be amazed at the number and variety of events that are happening in the Greater Manassas area and in particular in our Historic Downtown. I know that many of you are also interested in these events as we often hear comments about the event listings in this newsletter. One of the concerns that we often hear, depending on where you are in the utility bill cycle, is that you might see an event that you would have liked to attend but it happened the weekend just before you received the newsletter. Let me try to explain why this occurs.

Since utility bills are sent on a staggered schedule throughout the month (as an industry best practice for efficiency in billing) we list two months of events to allow everyone to see what is upcoming for several weeks after you receive the newsletter. This also means that most of the time you will also see some events that occurred the past couple of weeks. Since it is cost prohibitive to send out an updated newsletter with every utility bill we also have other methods that you can use to stay abreast of events. You can go to our website www.manassascity.org to read the newsletters as soon as they are published. There are also ongoing updates of information related to the City and events in the Greater Manassas area posted on the website. Follow us on twitter at www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas or like the City's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas to get information as it becomes available.

I believe that it is actually a positive sign for the community that questions about events continue to be asked and folks are interested in attending events and activities. I hope that everyone in the

community will help spread the word by telling others about the things that you enjoy doing in the community and events or activities where you plan to participate. Events are almost always more fun when you invite a friend.

One other initiative that I would like to share is a citizen satisfaction survey that will solicit thoughts and opinions about city government programs and services. This survey will be sent to a scientifically selected sample of City residents. If you receive the survey, I encourage you to complete it. Since this survey is only sent to a random sample of households spread throughout the City, if you receive the survey, your input is important. The time you invest in this survey will influence decisions made to improve existing services and determine future needs for the City of Manassas.

Enjoy the fall weather and the many colors that we are seeing in the community. I look forward to seeing you around the City.

What's Under Your Feet?

Visit the new exhibit at the Manassas Museum. *What's Under Your Feet* is an exhibit on archaeology and how the items found can form the stories of our past. Archaeological studies at Mayfield Earthwork Fort found not only artifacts from the Civil War period--which was quite expected since it was a Civil War fort--but also uncovered objects that tell the story of Native American occupation of the site. Additional artifacts recovered from Liberia Plantation, the Manassas Industrial School and the old slave quarter building at Clover Hill Farm will also be displayed in the exhibit.

One particularly interesting group of artifacts came from the Weir family cemetery when it was moved from an area being developed to a spot on the grounds of Liberia, the Weir family home. Experts from the Smithsonian Institution assisted in uncovering and

moving the remains and found a family member that had been well preserved for more than 100 years thanks to his cast iron coffin with a glass viewing window.

What's Under Your Feet has been partially underwritten by a generous donation from local resident William Olsen. The exhibit is open through February 15, Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Get Ready for Merry Old Town

Since the holiday season is right around the corner, here are a few reminders of upcoming fun in the City of Manassas. . .

Enter the gingerbread house contest before Nov. 14 at www.visitmanassas.org

Businesses in Old Town will be selling candy bars. Five will have golden tickets that will get the lucky winners a ride on Santa's float in the Christmas Parade.

Mark your calendar for Merry Old Town, Dec. 5 & 6 - Christmas Tree Lighting & Christmas Parade!

Fire Safety for Winter Heating

Can you feel the chill in the air? It is almost here. Winter is right around the corner. The City of Manassas Fire & Rescue Department would like to offer the following safety tips to keep you safe and warm this winter.

Portable Electric Heaters

Remember to 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

Barbeques (Yes, there are cases of people using barbeques in their homes)

Barbecues should never be used indoors or as a heating or cooking device. Barbecues produce large amounts of carbon monoxide that is unhealthy to breathe.



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. Have chimneys inspected and cleaned when necessary 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. 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.



Trash Tips

Leaf Collection

The City's curbside leaf collection program for 2014/2015 has started. Hard copies of the Leaf Collection Schedule can be picked up at City Hall or at the Utilities Customer Service Center located at 8500 Public Works Drive. You can also access the Leaf Collection Schedule online! Visit www.manassas.org/leaves to see the schedule. Enter your address on our interactive map or download a hard copy for yourself or your neighbor.

Holiday Schedule for Recycling and Trash Collection

Did you know that between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, Americans generate one million tons

of extra trash every week? During the Holiday Season, take note of the following changes:

- **Thanksgiving Day** (Nov. 27, 2014) - no trash service. Trash collection normally scheduled for that day will be collected on Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014.
- **Christmas Day** (Dec. 25, 2014) - no trash service. Trash normally scheduled for collection will be collected on Saturday, Dec. 27, 2014.
- **New Year's Day** (Jan. 1, 2015) - no trash service. Trash normally scheduled for collection will be collected on Saturday, Jan. 3, 2015.
- There will be regular service **Christmas Eve** (Dec. 24, 2014) and **New Year's Eve** (Dec. 31, 2014).

All other yard waste, recycling and trash collection service for these weeks will follow a normal schedule. Call the Trashline 703-257-8252 for more information and advice.

Inclement Weather and Trash Service

Winter is fast approaching and the weather is unpredictable. In the event of snow and storms, contact the Trashline at 703-257-8252 or visit the website: www.manassascity.org/trash, for information on closures, service postponements and cancellations.



The City of Manassas Happenings

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

Nov. 7, 5 to 9 p.m. - **First Friday** in Historic Downtown Manassas - Enjoy fun, food, great music and the **Fall Gallery Walk!**

www.visitmanassas.org

Nov. 7 - 9 - **Colin** presented by the Manassas Ballet Theatre at the Hylton Performing Arts Center. www.hyltoncenter.org

Nov. 7 - 22 on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. - Rooftop Productions presents **Moon Over Buffalo**

www.center-for-the-arts.org

Nov. 7 & 8 - **Holiday Bazaar** at Novant Prince William Medical Center - Call 703-369-8173 for more information.

Nov. 8 at 11 a.m. - **Greater Manassas Veterans Day Parade** in honor of Afghanistan and Iraq War veterans

www.vetpar.com



Nov. 8 at 9 a.m. - **Bicycle Tour** of the City www.manassasmuseum.org

Nov. 8, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Manassas Senior Center **Christmas Bazaar** at the Manassas Senior Center - Santa will make an appearance at 10 a.m.

Nov. 9, 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Wild Women of Washington, D.C.: A History of Disorderly Conduct from the Ladies of the District** with Author Camden Schwantes

www.manassasmuseum.org

Nov. 11, 10 a.m. - **Pre-K Tuesday** for ages 3-5 with a caretaker

www.manassasmuseum.org

Nov. 14, Applications are due for the **Gingerbread House** contest.

www.visitmanassas.org

Nov. 15 & 16 - **HONK!** the musical version of the Ugly Duckling - by Pied Piper Theatre

www.center-for-the-arts.org

Nov. 15, 8 a.m. to noon - **RecycleFest** at the Manassas Transfer Station. Free to City residents.

www.manassascity.org/trash

Nov. 15 - Farmers Market begins winter hours - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Nov. 29, **Small Business Saturday** - Make a point to shop local this Saturday and support our small businesses. *Echoes*, the Museum Store will be open as well.

Nov. 28 - Dec.24 - Osbourn High School Band's Wrapping Booth - get your gifts wrapped at Manassas Mall by Osbourn students - hours vary

Dec. 1-31 - **Holiday Exhibit at the Manassas Museum.** Vintage Holiday decorations on display through the holiday season.

www.manassasmuseum.org

Dec. 5, 5:30 - 8 p.m., **Merry Old Town Tree Lighting** - The holiday fun begins at 5:30 p.m. with holiday music and at 6 p.m. Santa arrives at the Manassas Depot via VRE train. The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting is at 6:30 p.m. at the Manassas Museum. Take a free hayride around Old Town or go for a skate at the Harris Pavilion. Santa will be at the Harris Pavilion gazebo to hear Christmas wishes.

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 5, 5:30-8:30 p.m. - **Museum holiday Open House** - free admission during the Manassas annual tree lighting; 10% discount on all merchandise at *Echoes* during the Open House.

www.manassasmuseum.org

Dec. 5 - 1st half of Fiscal Year 2015 **Real Estate Taxes are due**

www.manassascity.org/taxes

Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. - **69th Annual Greater Manassas Christmas Parade** - a tradition in the City of Manassas.

www.gmchristmasparade.org



Dec. 6, 4 to 7 p.m. - **Holidays at Liberia Plantation** - enjoy a tour, refreshments, living history and seasonal music.

www.manassasmuseum.org

Dec. 6, 1:30 - 3 p.m. - **Gingerbread House Workshop** at the Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 9, 10 a.m. - **Pre-K Tuesday** for ages 3-5 with a caretaker

www.manassasmuseum.org

Dec. 14, 1 - 5 p.m. - **Manassas Women's Club Holiday House Tours** - Tour historic homes, enjoy refreshments and a raffle - contact rrmentrout@pwcgov.org or call 703-368-6183

Dec. 14 & 21, 1 - 4 p.m. - Take a **Carriage Ride** around Historic Downtown Manassas.

www.visitmanassas.org

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools			
City of Manassas Council		City of Manassas School Board	
Mayor Harry J. Parrish II	703-257-8213	Chairman Tim Demeria	703-895-4856
Vice Mayor Andrew L. Harrover	703-368-2453	Vice Chairman Scott M. Albrecht	571-606-1129
Marc T. Aveni	703-795-9651	Arthur P. Bushnell	571-535-7510
J. Steven Randolph	703-368-4732	Ilka V. Chavez	571-606-0285
Ian T. Lovejoy	703-828-7592	Ellen M. Purdy	571-606-0499
Jonathan L. Way	703-368-9174	Pamela J. Sebesky	571-535-0652
Mark D. Wolfe	703-257-1702	Sanford S. Williams	571-535-6364

Get Social!

Visit the City at www.manassascity.org.

www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas

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.