



The City of Manassas Connection

January 2015

Two City of Manassas Detectives Receive Medal of Merit

The Manassas City Police Department is commending Senior Detective A. G. Barahona and Detective First Class M. Gemmell for their response and work effort related to a suspicious death that eventually proved to be a homicide. On Sunday, Aug. 17, 2014 DFC Gemmell responded to the 8900 block of Nicol Lane as the on call Detective. As the facts unfolded, it became apparent that the homicide could be gang related so Sr. Det. Barahona responded to assist with the case.

Within hours DFC Gemmell and Sr. Det. Barahona had sorted through information and confirmed that the incident was gang related. Investigation revealed that those responsible had connections with the 18th street criminal street gang. Six suspects had stabbed the victim multiple times in a vacant apartment, wrapped him in a carpet and left his body outdoors next to a dumpster.

Detectives interviewed any and all witnesses identified, more than 30, to confirm initial leads. Over the course of the week following the incident, numerous briefings were conducted to update and confirm intelligence gathered. Detectives Gemmell and Barahona worked tireless hours over the next four days. Numerous search warrants were executed; hundreds of pieces of evidence collected; and all suspects were identified.

The six responsible for the murder were all charged and arrested within five days following the initial response with the assistance of Northern Virginia Gang Task Force, United States Marshall Service, Metropolitan Police Department, Baltimore County Police Department and Immigration Customs Enforcement. Some of the suspects had fled as far as Washington, D.C and Baltimore, MD prior to arrest. All were taken into

custody without incident. DFC Gemmell's and Sr. Det. Barahona's determination, drive and investigative ability led to the arrest of all six suspects. Although this is still an active investigation and hours of follow up are still required for court prosecution, the knowledge and investigative skills of these two detectives led to a timely resolution for this very violent crime in our community.



Reuse and Recycle after the Holidays

Don't throw away all those beautiful Christmas cards from this year. Reuse them as gift tags for next year. Either cut out the picture or get a gift tag punch to create your own. This not only recycles, but saves you money. You can also make an ornament with old Christmas cards.

Dress up your recycling bin with an old tablecloth and then you can keep it out in public view. You can also change the tablecloth to fit the season.

Instead of buying expensive wrapping paper, have you thought of using an old magazine or comics section of the newspaper to wrap your gifts? They are colorful and bright and can be accentuated with ribbon and maybe a piece of vintage jewelry.

If you are throwing out batteries or strings of lights, remember these are household hazardous waste and should be recycled at a community HHW event. Greenery and Christmas trees can be recycled with your yard waste. Mondays are yard waste collection days in the City of Manassas. For more information, visit www.manassascity.org/trash.



A Message from the City Manager



*City Manager
William Patrick Pate*

Happy New Year!

If you are like me you are starting 2015 and wondering what happened to 2014? The old adage that “the older you are the faster time goes by” certainly appears to be true to me. A little research shows many theories for this phenomenon. Some think it is the increased responsibilities we have as we get older, others say our biological clock slows so time goes by quicker than expected. Still others say it is because of the many firsts that we have anticipated in life and which have already occurred so that we are looking back at many more

things that have happened rather than looking forward for things to occur.

I think I will go with another adage that “time flies when you are having fun.” Having been in Manassas for a little over a year now, I can say that we have many “fun” activities and events throughout the year that we can wait expectantly for and continue to enjoy year after year. These are things that we too often take for granted but should remember to appreciate.

A new year also brings opportunities for change and reflection. This month the City Council is welcoming two new members, Sheryl Bass and Ken Elston. Both will be jumping into a very busy time for your City government as we begin setting strategic priorities to guide the delivery of city services, determine the capital needs of the community and influence upcoming budgets.

Sheryl Bass has been an active resident of the City of Manassas for more than 30 years. She previously served as a City councilwoman from 2009 to 2012, and also served on the Manassas City School Board. She is a graduate of William and Mary College, earning a

Bachelor of Arts in Government. Sheryl has also been active on many boards on behalf of the City.

Ken Elston has been an active member of the community for twelve years. He is the Director of the School of Theater at George Mason University. He is very active in many community organizations and one of the star announcers at the Manassas Christmas Parade. He has a Masters Degree from Ohio State University and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Temple University.

As we welcome both these Council Members to 2015 I hope you will let them know and the rest of our governing body know what you would like to see as strategic priorities for our City. Also let them know that you appreciate their service.

I wish you all much joy and happiness in the New Year and may time fly as you are having fun in Manassas!

It's Snow Joke...

When the weather turns and snow begins to fall, the Street Department goes into action with 16 snow-removal trucks, 22 pieces of contract equipment, 1,500 tons of road salt and over 500 tons of sand.

Primary and snow emergency routes, which are listed as first run snow routes, will be the first priority for snow removal. Please be advised that four hours after a snow emergency has been declared, cars may be ticketed or towed to clear the route. After these roads are passable, the second run snow routes which are the school bus routes and collector streets will be treated. If the storm continues crews may have to return to the first run to keep these streets clear and passable.

City residents are required by code to remove snow from their sidewalks within 12 hours after a snowstorm has ended, or

by 5 p.m. when the snowfall is at night. Please be considerate of those who walk on the sidewalks and clean the walk in front of your business or home. For further information on the Snow Removal Plan in your area, please visit www.manassascity.org/snow.

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 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>.



City Numbers to Remember

If you need to call the City or a certain department, below are some good numbers to keep handy this year:

After-Hours Utility/Public Works Emergency	(703) 257-8353	Human Resources	(703) 257-8268
Airport	(703) 361-1882	Information Technology	(703) 257-8295
Airport 24-hour operations line	(703) 257-8270	Mayor and City Council	(703) 257-8213
City Clerk	(703) 257-8211	Manassas Museum System	(703) 368-1873
City Hall Information	(703) 257-8200	Police Department (Manassas Police Non-Emergency)	(703) 257-8000
City Manager	(703) 257-8212	Animal Control Services	(703) 257-8009
Communications	(703) 257-8456	Crime Solvers	(703) 330-0330
Commissioner of the Revenue		Ordinance Officer	(703) 257-8197
Board of Equalization	(703) 257-8229	Parking Enforcement	(703) 257-8198
Business Licenses	(703) 257-8214	Police Records	(703) 257-8100
Business Personal Property	(703) 257-8229	Traffic Services	(703) 257-8490
Meals/Lodging Tax	(703) 257-8214	Public Works	(703) 257-8378
Personal Property/Motor Vehicles	(703) 257-8206	Buildings & Ground Maintenance	(703) 257-8314
Personal Property Tax Relief	(703) 257-8298	Courtesy Truck	(703) 257-8378
Real Estate Assessments	(703) 257-8263	Capital Projects Inspector	(703) 257-8429
Real Estate Tax Relief	(703) 257-8298	Emergency After Hours	(703) 257-8353
State Income Taxes	(703) 257-8298	Horticulture	(703) 257-8374
Community Development	(703) 257-8223	Street Department	(703) 257-8378
Planning & Zoning Services	(703) 257-8223	Traffic Signals	(703) 257-8365
Development Services	(703) 257-8278	Trash & Recycling	(703) 257-8252
Neighborhood Services	(703) 257-8240	Rescue Squad (Rescue Non-Emergency)	(703) 361-2030
Economic Development	(703) 257-8881	School Board	(703) 257-8800
Events and Parks	(703) 257-8315	Treasurer	(703) 257-8242
Family Services	(703) 361-8277	Treasurer	
Finance		Delinquent Tax Collections	(703) 257-8244
Accounting	(703) 257-8269	Real Estate Tax Collections	(703) 257-8258
Budget	(703) 257-8272	Utility/Public Works Emergency (After Hours)	(703) 257-8353
Purchasing	(703) 257-8327	Utilities	(703) 257-8245
Fire & Rescue		Customer Service	(703) 257-8219
Headquarters	(703) 257-8458	Water / Sewer	(703) 257-8380
Fire Marshal	(703) 257-8455	Miss Utility	(800) 552-7001
Emergency Management	(703) 257-8062	Voter Registration	(703) 257-8230
Manassas Volunteer Fire Company	(703) 368-6211		
Greater Manassas Volunteer Rescue Squad	(703) 361-2030		

Other Numbers to Remember

Area Agency on Aging	(703) 792-6400	Manassas City Public Schools	
Child Support Enforcement	(800) 468-8894	Central Office	(571) 377-6000
Comcast	(888) 966-7552	Baldwin Elementary School	(571) 377-6100
Community Services Board	(703) 792-7800	Jennie Dean Elementary School	(571) 377-6300
Court House (Prince William)		Haydon Elementary School	(571) 377-6200
Information	(703) 792-6015	Round Elementary School	(571) 377-6400
Land Records	(703) 792-6035	Weems Elementary School	(571) 377-6500
Traffic & Criminal Court	(703) 792-6031	Mayfield Intermediate School	(571) 377-6600
Employment Commission (VA)	(866) 832-2363	Metz Middle School	(571) 377-6800
Federal Communications Commission	(888) 225-5322	Osborn High School	(571) 377-7000
Harris Pavilion	(703) 361-9800	Social Security Administration	(800) 772-1213
Historic Manassas	(703) 361-6599	Verizon	(800) 483-4000
Manassas Senior Center	(703) 792-6405	Virginia Rail Express (VRE)	(703) 684-0400

The City of Manassas Happenings

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

Wednesdays in January **ice skate for free** at the Harris Pavilion from 6-8 p.m.

www.harris pavilion.com

Jan. 10 at 10 a.m. - **Understanding History** workshop for 9-14 year olds - Learn more about Virginia history and help boost your academic record. The January program covers the 1607-1800 period, the Feb. 14 workshop covers 1801-1900, and the March 14 workshop covers 1901-2014.

www.manassasmuseum.org

Jan. 13, 10 a.m. - **Pre-K Tuesday** for ages 3-5 with a caretaker

www.manassasmuseum.org

Jan. 17 & 18 - Pied Piper Theatre presents **Disney's Aladdin Jr.**

www.hyltoncenter.org

Jan. 24, **Hylton in the Highlands** at the Hylton Performing Arts center

www.hyltoncenter.org

Jan. 24 from 12 to 5 p.m. - **Annual Winter Celebration** - Enjoy free smores, broomball games and a surprise visit from a frozen character! Admission/Skate Rental Fees apply

www.harris pavilion.com



Jan. 24, 11 a.m. - Osbourn High School Athletic Booster Club's **4th Annual Texas Hold'em Tournament**

jbeier4150@verizon.net

Jan. 25, 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **The Last Citadel Petersburg; June 1864 - April 1865** with Author Noah Andre Trudeau

www.manassasmuseum.org

Feb. 7, 5 - 9 p.m. - **First Friday** in Historic Downtown

www.visitmanassas.org

Feb. 7 & 9 - Audition for **Incorruptible** at the Center for the Arts to be performed in May.

www.center-for-the-arts.org

Feb. 21, 12 to 5 p.m. - **Cartoon Skate** Skate with your favorite cartoon characters and enjoy free s'mores! Admission/Skate Rental Fees apply

www.harris pavilion.com

Don't forget the **Farmers Market**, on Saturdays at 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Lot B (the watertower lot).

Remember to check out what's going on at the Hylton Performing Arts Center this winter.

www.hyltoncenter.org

How do you find out if City Government is closed due to weather?

Stay connected at:

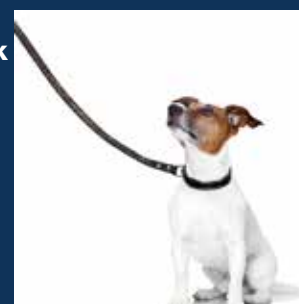
- www.manassascity.org
- www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas
- www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas
- watch Comcast channel 23 in the City or Verizon 38
- tune in to your local news station and read the scrolling messages

All 2015 parking district permits, hang tags and dog licenses must be displayed beginning January 1, 2015. To get any of the above, contact the Treasurer's Office at www.manassascity.org/treasurer.



It's Your Doodie (duty)

Please pick up after your pet. Pet waste can be picked up by stormwater runoff, such as rain or melting snow, which then flows, untreated, into storm drains, lakes and rivers polluting the water presenting a health risk to adults, children, and other pets and wildlife.



City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

City of Manassas Council

Mayor Harry J. Parrish II 703-257-8213
 Marc T. Aveni 703-795-9651
 Sheryl L. Bass 703-314-4278
 Ken Elston 571-377-8817
 Ian T. Lovejoy 703-828-7592
 Jonathan L. Way 703-368-9174
 Mark D. Wolfe 703-257-1702

City of Manassas School Board

Chairman Tim Demeria 703-895-4856
 Vice Chairman Scott M. Albrecht 571-606-1129
 Arthur P. Bushnell 571-535-7510
 Ilka V. Chavez 571-606-0285
 Ellen M. Purdy 571-606-0499
 Pamela J. Sebesky 571-535-0652
 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 pprince@ci.manassas.va.us.