



# The City of Manassas Connection

June 2015

## Five New Firefighter/EMTs

Five new firefighters were sworn into office by Mayor Harry J. Parrish II. These new firefighters join a team of more than 60 sworn personnel protecting City of Manassas residents.

Firefighter/EMT Stephen Boensel attended George Mason University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Administration of Justice. During his college years, Stephen volunteered with the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department in the City of Fairfax. After college he became a volunteer with the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company and is excited for this next step in fire services with the City of Manassas Fire and Rescue Department.

Firefighter/EMT Dustin Clay followed in his father's footsteps by joining the fire service early in life. He volunteered at the Rockville Volunteer Fire Department during college at Montgomery College in Maryland. He has served in the Waynesboro Fire Department and the Fredericksburg Fire Department before coming to Manassas.



He is currently also a volunteer with the Stanardsville Volunteer Fire Department.

Firefighter/Medic J. Alexander Hall has been in the fire service for more than five years with the Dale City Volunteer Fire Department. Shortly after becoming a volunteer, J realized the fire service was a way of life and his way of giving back to the community. He says the City of Manassas Fire and Rescue Department was a great choice because it feels like more of a family environment.

Firefighter/Medic Benjamin Page graduated from Shenandoah University with two Bachelor of Science degrees in 2009. While working as a personal trainer he became a volunteer medic. After working for Spotsylvania County Fire and Rescue for more than two years, he was looking for a position closer to home. Ben says that the City's reputation as a regional trendsetting Fire and EMS department, and the pride that the personnel take in their department, is what attracted him to the City of Manassas.

Firefighter/Medic Craig Seaman volunteered with the Houston Fire Department when he lived in Humble, Texas. After serving as a United States Marine, he became a career Firefighter/Medic with Loudoun County. He will now serve as a Firefighter/Medic for the City of Manassas.



# A Message from the City Manager



*City Manager*  
**William Patrick Pate**

Last month I wrote about a “sense of place” in Manassas, one of the themes coming out of your community input. This month I want to talk about a second theme which emerged from this research, a “sense of opportunity.”

So why do people think the City of Manassas is an opportunistic place? From a historical perspective, Manassas exists because of the opportunities created by the convergence of strategic railroad lines at “Manassas Junction” leading to Washington, Richmond and the Shenandoah Valley. In the 1930’s the Manassas Town Council proposed the building of a landing strip which was relocated in the 1960’s and now is

the busiest general aviation airport in Virginia serving around 30 businesses including Aurora Flight Sciences and contributing more than \$234 million to the local economy.

Also in the 60’s IBM created a 600-acre facility in the City of Manassas which is still a major employment center today with Lockheed Martin, Micron and BAE all having a significant presence on the site. Each of these companies was recently named by Forbes Magazine as one of the top places to work in the US. The 60’s also saw the community come together to build Lake Manassas and to establish a hospital in Manassas that has continued to grow and is now a part of the Novant Health medical system and remains one of the top employers in the region.

Terms such as business-friendly, strategic location, access to markets, a talent pipeline, an environment for growth and idea exchange, inclusive, supportive, a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship were all used to describe the sense of opportunity in the City of Manassas today.

As a part of our strategic planning focus to maintain this sense of opportunity, the City plans to support

the growth of individuals and businesses by providing opportunities for residents to live, work, learn and thrive in a City that values independence and access. This translates into goals of having a comprehensive economic development program, supporting Manassas City Public Schools as well as other educational possibilities, marketing and developing underutilized parts of our City, and creating new opportunities for the next generation.

If you did not know, Manassas is home to over 1,400 businesses employing over 20,000 individuals that show cases the diversity of our community in business ownership as well as the large impact that veterans are having in our community. May was business appreciation month, which gave the City several opportunities to thank many of the businesses that are creating jobs and wealth in our community and I would like to take this opportunity to again thank all of our local businesses for your role in supporting our community.

I hope you will join me in taking the opportunity to patronize our local businesses and to also thank them for calling Manassas home.

## Excellence in Waterworks Operations



*Jim Kelly, plant manager and Rebecca Abel, compliance officer stand with Robert Edelman, district engineer Virginia department of health water programs as he presents the Excellence in Waterworks Operations/Performance Award by the Commonwealth of Virginia Office of Drinking Water.*

**The City’s Water  
Quality Report  
is now available  
online at  
[www.manassascity.org/  
waterqualityreport](http://www.manassascity.org/waterqualityreport)**



# A Few Notes from Public Works

## Get Ready for Mosquito Season



Recently in Virginia, an increasing number of animals and humans have tested positive for the mosquito-borne

West Nile virus.

All mosquitoes need water in which to pass their early life stages. Water standing just a few days can produce a crop of mosquitoes!

You can limit the mosquitos around your home by eliminating all sources of standing water around your property that can support mosquito breeding such as:

- Old bottles and tin cans
- Vases, flower pots, and bird feeders
- Old tires
- Clogged roof gutters
- Ornamental ponds
- Plastic wading pools

Plan ahead and stay safe during mosquito season:

- Avoid activity outside when mosquitoes are most active, especially at dawn and dusk.
- Wear long pants, long sleeve shirts and other protective clothing and apply insect repellent according to label instructions before engaging in outdoor activities.
- Keep infants indoors during peak mosquito hours. If outside, cover cribs, bassinets or playpens with suspended mosquito netting.

## What can the City do?

The City of Manassas is working to plan, design and maintain stormwater drains and ditches to eliminate or to minimize the proliferation of disease-carrying mosquitoes.

For more mosquito control ideas or to report unusual mosquito activity, contact Sung Jin Chung, Stormwater Manager at (703) 257-8228.

## Heavy Yard Waste Collections Ahead

As more and more residents return to their gardens, yard waste collections are becoming heavier. Crews begin Monday yard waste collections at 6 a.m. and often work through to 8:30 p.m. gathering the yard waste that is then recycled as landscaping material. Crews are often slowed down picking up loose yard waste material and sorting through heavy bags as they check for non-yard waste materials.

Here are a few tips that can help move the collections along and ensure that you are setting everything out correctly:

- Set your yard waste out on Sunday night
- Use brown paper yard waste bags – NO plastic bags, please
- Keep bags light – NO dirt or sod, please
- Bundle and tie branches and brush
- Set your yard waste in a spot where it can be seen

## What's Going on at Portner Ave. and West Street?

Portner Avenue near West Street is part of the Upper Flat Branch Interceptor Project. The Public Works Department broke ground on this project in March of 2015. Currently the contractor, General Excavation Inc. and the City of Manassas are working near the project's downstream limits, installing new sanitary sewer lines and a large storm box culvert between Portner Ave. and West St. This long anticipated project will improve storm drainage in an area of Historic Downtown Manassas that has experienced severe flooding.

City residents can expect to see Columbia Gas Company in the vicinity over the next few months to upgrade gas services. The City's contractor will continue to improve the sanitary and storm sewer infrastructure up to Main Street as the project progresses. The current schedule for project completion is February 2016. If you have any questions about this project, call 703-257-8266.



## It's All Happening in the City of Manassas

[www.visitmanassas.org](http://www.visitmanassas.org)

**Don't miss Celebrate America - the July 4th Celebration in Historic Downtown. There'll be children's rides, great food, vendors, live entertainment and the best fireworks in Northern Virginia. Pick your spot on the lawn early!**



**Mark the calendar for Civil War Weekend - Aug. 21 - 23 in Historic Downtown Manassas. There will be living history, re-enactors, the burning of a mock railcar and much more. You won't want to miss a minute!**

## Get Social!

Visit the City at [www.manassascity.org](http://www.manassascity.org).



[www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas](https://www.facebook.com/cityofmanassas)



[www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas](https://www.twitter.com/cityofmanassas)



[www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas](https://www.flickr.com/photos/cityofmanassas)

Put your own photos up at  
[www.flickr.com/groups/  
mycityofmanassas](https://www.flickr.com/groups/mycityofmanassas).

To contact the City of Manassas Connection newsletter, email [pprince@ci.manassas.va.us](mailto:pprince@ci.manassas.va.us).

# The City of Manassas Happenings

Here's what's happening in the City of Manassas during June and July.

Now - October - Thursdays and Fridays at noon - **Historic Downtown walking tours**  
www.manassasmuseum.org

Now - July 15 - **Protecting Manassas** - a new exhibit at the Manassas Museum featuring the history of our Public Safety.  
www.manassasmuseum.org

**Sunday Tours of Liberia Plantation** - Sundays throughout the summer tour the Civil War Era plantation and view the graffiti left by Civil War soldiers  
www.manassasmuseum.org

**Take Out Tuesdays and Wednesday Lunch Concerts** are back in June, July and August at the Harris Pavilion. Pick up a meal at one of our local restaurants and enjoy the free entertainment. Also stop by the Farmer's Market from 6-8 p.m.  
www.harris pavilion.com

June 5, 5 - 9 p.m. - **First Friday Corn Hole Tournament** in Historic Downtown  
www.visitmanassas.org

June 6, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - **21st Annual Heritage Railway Festival** - featuring excursion rides to Clifton and back, train displays, great food and much more  
www.visitmanassas.org

June 6 & 7 - **Steam Train 611** will be traveling through the City transporting tourists between Manassas and Front Royal.  
www.visitmanassas.org

June 7, 12 - 4:30 p.m. - **Taste of Manassas** - Find out why everyone is coming here to eat.  
www.visitmanassas.org

June 7 at 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - *That Furious Struggle: Chancellorsville and the High Tide of the Confederacy* with author Chris Mackowski  
www.visitmanassas.org

June 9, 10 a.m. - **Pre-K Tuesday** for ages 3-5 with a caretaker  
www.manassasmuseum.org

June 13, 8 - 11 p.m. - Saturday night adult dance to **Beatlemania** at the Harris Pavilion  
www.visitmanassas.org

June 14 at 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - *The Battle of First Deep Bottom* with author James S. Price  
www.visitmanassas.org

June 14 at 3 p.m. - **Prince William Community Band and Ice Cream Social**  
www.visitmanassas.org

June 20, 8 - 11 p.m. - Saturday night adult dance to the **T-Birds** at the Harris Pavilion  
www.visitmanassas.org

June 21, 12 - 7 p.m. - **Wine and Jazz Festival** on the Manassas Museum Lawn.  
www.visitmanassas.org

June 26 at 8:30 p.m. - *The Lego Movie* at the Harris Pavilion  
www.visitmanassas.org

June 27 at 6:30 p.m. - Washington Balalaika Society - **A Festival of Russian Music** at the Harris Pavilion  
www.visitmanassas.org

June 28 at 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - *Walt Whitman in Washington, D.C.; The Civil War and America's Great Poet* with Garrett Peck  
www.visitmanassas.org

June 28 at 3 p.m. - **Bull Run Troubadours and Ice Cream Social** at the Harris Pavilion  
www.visitmanassas.org

July 4, 4 - 10 p.m. - Come **Celebrate America** in our Historic Downtown. Children's rides, great food, live music and entertainment and fun vendors. The evening is topped off with the BEST fireworks in Northern Virginia.  
www.visitmanassas.org



July 9 at 7 p.m. - U.S. Navy Commodores  
www.harris pavilion.com

July 10 at 8 p.m. - Friday Adult Dance with the Silver Tones Swing Band  
www.harris pavilion.com

July 11 at 6:30 p.m. - Annapolis Bluegrass Coalition  
www.harris pavilion.com

July 12 at 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - *Jonathan Roberts - The Civil War's Quaker Scout and Sheriff*  
www.manassasmuseum.org

July 12 at 3 p.m. - **The Smokey Winstead Band & Ice Cream Social**  
www.harris pavilion.com

July 14, 10 a.m. - **Pre-K Tuesday** for ages 3-5 with a caretaker  
www.manassasmuseum.org

July 17 at 8:30 p.m. - *An American Tail* Friday Family Movie Night  
www.harris pavilion.com

July 19 at 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - *Cut from Strong Cloth*  
www.manassasmuseum.org

July 19 at 3 p.m. - **The Kings Park Band & Ice Cream Social**  
www.harris pavilion.com

July 24 at 8:30 p.m. - *How to Train Your Dragon 2* - Family Movie night  
www.harris pavilion.com

July 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **8th Annual ADA Fair**  
www.harris pavilion.com

July 25, 8 p.m. - Adult Dance with **Southern Persuasion**  
www.harris pavilion.com

July 26 at 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - *For Brotherhood & Duty*  
www.manassasmuseum.org

July 25 at 3 p.m. - **Nitehawks Orchestra and Ice Cream Social**  
www.harris pavilion.com

## City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

### City of Manassas Council

Mayor Harry J. Parrish II 703-257-8213  
Vice Mayor,  
Jonathan L. Way 703-368-9174  
Marc T. Aveni 703-795-9651  
Sheryl L. Bass 703-314-4278  
Ken D. Elston 571-377-8817  
Ian T. Lovejoy 703-828-7592  
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  
Ellen M. Purdy 571-606-0499  
Pamela J. Sebesky 571-535-0652  
Sanford S. Williams 571-535-6364