



City of Manassas Wins Digital Cities Award

The City of Manassas has been named one of the Top 10 Digital Cities for population category up to 75,000 by the Center for Digital Government. The award recognizes leading examples of cities using technology to improve services and boost efficiencies for residents. Criteria for the judging for the awards include: citizen engagement, policy, operations, technology and data.

The top-ten technology-related initiatives the City of Manassas submitted to receive this award are:

- **Extensive Social Media presence:** The City has Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, and YouTube sites to help inform, engage and promote the City of Manassas.
- **Social Corner:** Live social media feeds on City website homepage so everyone can stay connected even if they are not on social media.
- **311GIS:** This is a tool for residents to report concerns to the city. They can either use it on their home computer or download the app and use it on their mobile device. It has become a very useful tool for both residents and staff.
- **Public Records:** The community can explore and research public records in the comfort of their own homes online. Records include appropriations, audit reports, budgets, capital improvement programs, comprehensive annual reports, meeting minutes, ordinances and resolutions, some dating as far back as 1965.
- **Building Permit System:** Visitors can check the status of permits, inspections, plans, or schedule inspections on this new one-stop



- **building permit system.**
- **CoMtv (City of Manassas TV):** This area of the website allows visitors to access City Council meetings and City videos 24/7 on-demand.
- **Hometown Virtual Tour:** The Hometown Tour is an app that enhances the visitors experience by providing information and stories as they walk around the city.
- **Digital Message Boards:** There are five digital message boards at the major gateway entrances to the City. The boards convey City happening, events and messaging. These signs have been great tools for communicating to the commuting public.
- **Tax Dollars at Work:** This is an application on the City site where residents can enter an assessed property value to calculate estimated taxes. This also allows residents or potential residents to see how their tax dollars are used in the community.
- **Trash/Recycling App (Interactive Leaf Collection Schedule):** Residents can enter their address into this app and view Leaf Collection pickup, recycling pickup, and yard waste pickup information for their address. It also includes information on the transfer station and Public Works Department.

Did you know . . .

Before you invest in a drone or model aircraft to fly in the City of Manassas, check out the rules at www.manassascity.org/drone.

The FAA mandates that you may not fly within five nautical miles of the Manassas Regional Airport without a Certificate of Authorization. This encompasses the entire City of Manassas and parts of Prince William County.

A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
William Patrick Pate

It is hard for me to believe that I am already celebrating my third Christmas in Manassas. I am not sure which adage is more appropriate; Time flies when you are having fun; or the older you get the faster time flies!

In any event, I hope, like me, you are enjoying many of the Manassas holiday traditions. We have Ice Skating at the Harris Pavilion; shopping at our local businesses; Merry Old Town with the Lighting of the Tree and Santa in our Historic Downtown; the best Christmas Parade in the region; Santa Trains from VRE that are also a nod to

our unique train history; a Gingerbread House contest; the Nutcracker Ballet at the Hylton Performing Arts Center; a Christmas Carol at the Center for the Arts; Decorations in Historic Downtown including decked out shops, Christmas banners and lights that just put you in the holiday spirit.

This is just a sampling of the many things going on and does not even touch on the many Church and non-profit based events that are happening in our community or the various family gatherings that will be taking place. Manassas really is the place to be during the holidays.

For those of you that have spent all or most of your life in Manassas, it bears reminding to those of us who are newer to the community how much has changed over the years. Manassas has not always been the center of activities and events that we see today. It took a lot of hard work and effort to bring about the changes that we take for granted today when we enjoy the Historic Downtown, the Harris Pavilion and the Hylton Performing Arts Center.

The community came together with a vision and a plan to create this place we call home. As new opportunities arise we need to continue to have the vision and desire necessary to move forward with new possibilities for the city's future.

During this time of giving, I'd like to thank each of you for taking part in creating the wonderful atmosphere we have in the City of Manassas. I can't wait to see what our future holds with our forward thinking residents and staff. Looking into the future, I see a place where our children and grandchildren will continue to create their own holiday and family traditions.

Happy Holidays!



Virtual Museum Tour

Six George Mason University students are bringing the Manassas Museum to the world in a new virtual tour now available on the museum's website.

Although admission is free for Manassas Museum visitors, the students recognized that actually getting to the museum could be a problem for some potential visitors. Those who live across the country or around the world, those who live nearby but are unable to travel, teachers looking for bus-less field trips, or those who want to spend more time viewing exhibits can now view dozens of artifacts installed in the museum's main gallery with just a few clicks. Also, for the brief period of time this winter while the Museum is closed for renovations, you will be able to visit through this tour.

George Mason students Daniel Vincent, Joseph Nguyen, Theresa Davis, Michael Andarge, Charles Estes and

Zobair Shahadat collaborated with museum staff on the virtual tour project as part of their work in a senior design class. They identified a need where technology would enhance the museum's offerings, searched for a platform to make the tour work, and consulted with the City of Manassas Information Technology department to ensure that the tour was compatible with the City's website.

"I think I speak on behalf of the team in that this has been a rewarding experience in working with the City of Manassas learning and honing our skills that will be invaluable for our careers and the Senior Design class," says Daniel Vincent, the team lead on the project. "It has also been a rewarding experience helping the Manassas Museum System reach out to the community by using technology, and we hope that our solution makes the System a better place to learn about the City's history."

Now that the tour is up and running, museum staff will continue to add details about selected artifacts. Visit www.manassasmuseum.org for the tour.

Manassas Museum Closed in January

The Manassas Museum will be closed from Jan. 5- Jan. 31 for needed renovations. We look forward to serving all our visitors in February with a more inviting space.

Parks, Culture and Recreation Master Plan

Are you interested in City parks and cultural sites and amenities? Well, then this project may interest you. The City of Manassas is conducting a Parks, Culture and Recreation Needs Assessment that will ultimately guide the City in maintaining current and future parks, recreation and cultural amenities and to determine how the current system effectively serves the community.

Just last month, the City hosted a series of public meetings and listened to the community discuss the need for more and better multi-use fields, trail connectivity, accessible facilities and community space, among other things. The public meetings included a focus group with teens at Osbourn High School and with seniors at the Manassas Senior Center.

After the holidays, the City will follow up those public meetings with a survey, both by mail and online to gather more information before starting the planning process in the spring. You can read the results of the public meetings and sign up to participate in the survey on the City's website at www.manassascity.org/parksplan.

To assist us in this effort, the City has hired a nationally known parks and recreation management consulting firm, GreenPlay, LLC, to oversee this process. A local Alexandria design firm, Rhodeside & Harwell, Inc. will work with GreenPlay to develop the master plan for Parks, Culture and Recreation for the City of Manassas. Rhodeside & Harwell will also update the master plan for Dean Park.

For questions or comments about this process, visit www.manassascity.org/parksplan or call Kisha Wilson-Sogunro at (703) 257-9240.



Cleaning up after Christmas & Recycle News

Christmas is the busiest time of the year for trash and recycling. Between visitors, wrapping presents and all those boxes ... it can get quite messy come trash time.

Here are five simple things that you can do to get organized and keep your neighborhood clean for the holidays.

1. Bag all of your household trash and put it in your City trash cart.
2. Recycle smart! Only put paper, cardboard, food/drink cans and containers in your recycling. No plastic bags please!
3. Flatten your large cardboard boxes and set them next to your recycling.
4. Call at least 24 hours ahead of your trash day (Friday for townhomes) to schedule collection of extra or large trash items.
5. Live Christmas trees can be set out with yard waste on Mondays. Please

remove all decorations before you set your tree out. Last year, the yard waste crew saved four very special Christmas ornaments and returned them to their owners. That was a close call!

For more information call the Trashline on (703)257-8252 or visit www.manassascity.org/trash

Plastic Bag Update

Thank you for your calls regarding recycling "plastic carrier" bags. These are the bags that you receive when you go shopping. You can recycle "plastic carrier" bags along with other clean plastic bags at many local stores including: Walmart, Giant, Harris Teeter, Shoppers, Target and Food Lion. Please do not put them in your recycling cart.

RecycleFest2 Success!

More than four hundred residents dropped off their shredding and recycling at the second RecycleFest celebrating America Recycles Day, in the City of Manassas. Working together, our community recycled an estimated eighteen tons of paper, electronics and household hazardous waste!

Thank you for recycling and for helping to keep the City of Manassas beautiful!



The City of Manassas Happenings

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

Through Dec. 31 - **A Virginia Dynasty: The Carters of Virginia** - Free exhibit at the Manassas Museum - a joint effort with Prince William County Historic Preservation Division

www.manassasmuseum.org

December 1 - 16 - **Gingerbread House Judging** by the public. Stop in and vote!

www.visitmanassas.org

December 1 - **Dog tags** are available for purchase at the Treasurer's Office.

December 1 - 2016 Zone **parking permits**, Red/commuter permits and Blue/Old Town permits become available.

www.manassascity.org/parking

December 4, 5:30 - 8 p.m. - **Merry Old Town** - Old fashioned holiday fun. Greet Santa at the VRE at 6:15 p.m. or help light the tree at 6:30 p.m. It's a magical night.

www.visitmanassas.org

December 4, 5:30 - 8 p.m. - **Deck the Galleries** - a joint exhibit with kindergarten and first grade students from Baldwin Elementary open through December 31

www.manassasmuseum.org

December 4 - 13 - **A Christmas Carol** at the Center for the Arts

www.center-for-the-arts.org

December 5, **70th Annual Greater Manassas Christmas Parade**

www.gmchristmasparade.org

December 5, 6 to 8 p.m. - **Holidays at Liberia**

www.manassasmuseum.org

December 5 at 5 p.m. - Manassas Chorale **"The Spirit of Christmas" Winter Concert**

www.manassaschorale.org

December 6, 13 & 20, from 1-4 p.m. - **Merry Old Town: Carriage Rides** - NEW 2015 route! Rides leave from the Train Depot and are \$10 per ride.

www.visitmanassas.org

December 6 - **Downtown Merchants Open House.**

www.visitmanassas.org

December 6 at 2 p.m. - Free Book Talk - **Grant's Last Battle** - at the Manassas Museum

www.visitmanassas.org

December 7 - **Real estate taxes are due.**

www.manassascity.org/taxes

Now thru Dec. 13 - Osbourn High School Band's **Wrapping Booth** at Manassas Mall. Stop by and let us do the wrapping.

December 13, 1 to 5 p.m. - **Holiday Homes Tour** given by the GFWC Manassas Women's Club. (703) 368-6183

December 16 - 20 - **Winter Wonderland Train Show** at the Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory.

www.visitmanassas.org

December 17 - 23 - **The Nutcracker** performed by the Manassas Ballet at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

www.manassasballet.org



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www.manassasmuseum.org

January 15, 2016 - **Banner Art Entries are Due!**

www.visitmanassas.org

January 16 - 17 - **Narnia** performed by Pied Piper Theatre at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

www.hyltoncenter.org

January 24 - **The Band of the Royal Marines and the Pipes, Drums and Highland Dancers of the Scots Guards**

www.hyltoncenter.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 Jonathan L. Way	703-368-9174	Vice Chairman Scott M. Albrecht	571-606-1129
Marc T. Aveni	703-795-9651	Arthur P. Bushnell	571-535-7510
Sheryl L. Bass	703-314-4278	Kristen Kiefer	571-606-1129
Ken D. Elston	571-377-8817	Ellen M. Purdy	571-606-0499
Ian T. Lovejoy	703-828-7592	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.