



Manassas Connection

January 2016

A Message from the City Manager



*City Manager
William Patrick Pate*

Late in November, I had the opportunity to take part in a day long Fire & Rescue Ops (a day in the life event.) Fifteen community folks went through the paces to learn a little bit of the ins and outs of being a firefighter in the City.

Safety is always a paramount concern so our first requirement was being fitted with the proper equipment. We had to pass a breathing test to show we could properly wear our breathing apparatus along with all of the other gear needed to respond to 911 calls. After a short briefing and before we had a chance to settle in to our new surroundings,

we were called to race to the scene of a “traffic accident” where we had to show our CPR and first aid skills in a rescue situation.

Next, we were off to the Prince William Public Safety Academy’s training center. Here we had the opportunity to perform a search and rescue operation in a smoke filled building, climb to a rooftop, open a bolted door and actually enter a burning building to extinguish a fire. Each of these experiences was created in as realistic a manner as possible without exposing us to any unnecessary dangers. I can tell you that trying to feel your way around a smoke filled room on your knees with zero visibility, carrying an air pack while trying to determine if someone is in the room seemed far too real and was very difficult. My hat is off to the men and women who do this every day. It is a lot harder than it looks!

I believe everyone that participated enjoyed the day immensely including our fire and rescue instructors who were able to share a little of what they train to do every day. What I really enjoyed the most, however, was seeing our City staff at work.

Whether it is saving lives or keeping us safe, making sure the street lights work or the power comes on, providing quality drinking water or enforcing city codes, developing programs for our enjoyment or helping with access to services, City staff work hard every day to make the City of Manassas a great place to live, work, play and do business. This is indeed a special place with an historic heart and a modern beat.

So, when you are in your warm car and see one of our crews or officers out in the cold weather, give them a quick wave acknowledging the work that they are doing to make all of our lives a little better. I am sure it will be appreciated!



Buying Local is Worth Every Dime

In recent years, there has been a growing movement to “go local.” Restaurants feature “farm-to-table” menus with food from local and regional farms. Brewers and distillers talk about using locally harvested hops or rye as part of the “grain-to-glass” process. And, independently owned retailers ask customers to support local businesses in order to keep one-of-a-kind shops open.

One of the most important decisions a consumer can make is to spend money in the community where they live. This form of buying local is a conscious effort to make purchases within your city’s borders. It matters because, in Virginia, a portion of the sales tax that people pay gets returned to the community.

Residents in the City of Manassas pay a 6 percent sales tax. The state keeps 4.3 percent, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority gets .70 percent, and the remaining one percent of the tax revenue is returned to the City. While one percent might not seem like very much it adds up. Last fiscal year (July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015) the City received \$7.5 million in local sales tax revenues. That money goes into the City’s General Fund, which pays for important services like public safety, public works, and education. Of the \$7.5 million received in FY 2015, \$4.4 million was transferred to the Manassas City Public Schools per the Joint Budget Resolution.

It makes sense that where people do their day-to-day shopping for things like groceries and convenience items and where they go to lunch or dine in/takeout for dinner really matters. This includes such basic, everyday purchases as filling your car’s tank with gas at a convenience store inside of the City. Keeping a portion of these dollars within the community allows you to directly benefit.

Shopping local is most frequently associated with specialty retail and restaurants because a greater amount of the money that is spent gets returned to the community. Studies show that shopping with independent businesses returns three times more money to the local economy than when shopping with a chain store. However, often overlooked is that many “National chains” are franchised to owners and operators who live in the community and support local athletics, civic leagues and churches. These franchise owners are small business people and their local impact on the economy is important too.

While the internet makes buying items convenient and doesn’t require walking into a store, there are a few things to consider before clicking that check-out button. A look at Amazon shows that the online retail giant creates less than half as many jobs as local stores. The retailer also doesn’t pay business taxes and fees the way that local brick-and-mortar owners



do. By helping to keep independent businesses prosperous, shoppers can keep them open and contributing to the local economy in big ways.

For example, home improvement/building supplies and materials is one of the larger categories of retail sales in the City. Choosing to go True Value, Building Supply of Manassas or Southern States will keep the most dollars within the local economy. But for shoppers who prefer going to national chain businesses, choosing Home Depot over Lowes (which is outside of the City’s boundaries) will contribute to paying for local services.

There are many choices you have when making a purchase, but where you choose to make that purchase is important. It does have an impact on the local economy and directly benefits your quality of life. Please, shop local in the City of Manassas and encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same.

Presidential Primary Elections to be held March 1

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Friday, Jan. 15 | Absentee Voting Begins |
| Monday, Feb. 8 | Last Day to Register to Vote or update voter information |
| Tuesday, Feb. 23 | Last Day to Request an Absentee Ballot by Mail |
| Saturday, Feb. 27 | Voter Registration Office Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for Absentee Voting. |
| | Last Day to Vote Absentee In-Person |
| Tuesday, March 1 | Primary Election Day. Polls open 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. |



Please note: Both Democratic and Republican Party Primary Elections are being held simultaneously. You may choose to participate in either party’s Primary, but you may only choose one. Please be prepared to tell election officials which party’s Primary you wish to participate in.

Additional note: The Republican Party of Virginia is planning to require voters who participate in their Primary to sign a “Statement of Party Affiliation.” Please contact the Voter Registration Department at (703) 257-8230 or the Republican Party of Virginia at (804) 780-0111 for more information.

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 |
| Airport Maintenance Line | (703) 257-1209 | Manassas Museum System | (703) 368-1873 |
| City Clerk | (703) 257-8211 | Police Department (Manassas Police Non-Emergency) | |
| City Hall Information | (703) 257-8200 | | (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 (permits) | (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, February and March.

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.

www.manassasmuseum.org

Through March 26 – **Saturday Winter Farmer's Market** in Parking Lot B from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

www.visitmanassas.org

January 11, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. - Manassas City Police Department **Swearing In Ceremony and Employee Recognition**

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

January 30, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. - Xi Delta Gamma bi-annual **Crop for Scholarships** at Bethel Lutheran Church

Julie.brill@opm.gov

February 1 - Manassas Museum reopens to the public.

www.manassasmuseum.org

February 5, 5-8pm – First Friday – **"Soup Bowl"** – Come sample great soup while you enjoy the sites and sounds of the Historic Downtown.

www.visitmanassas.org

February 13 at noon - **Liberia House Hard Hat Tours.**

www.manassasmuseum.org

February 13 at 8 p.m. - American Festival Pops Orchestra: **Valentine's Day Pops**

www.hyltoncenter.org

February 21 at 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk at the Manassas Museum - **Historic Cemeteries of Northern Virginia**

www.visitmanassas.org

March 4 - **First Friday** in Historic Downtown Manassas

www.visitmanassas.org



March 4 - Two New Free Exhibits at the Manassas Museum: **Perceptions**, Osbourn High School Art Exhibit; and **To Be Sold**, a Library of Virginia loaned exhibit on enslaved African-Americans.

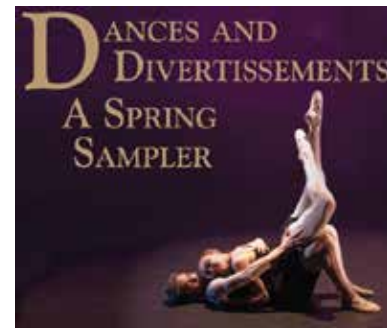
www.manassasmuseum.org

March 5 at 7:30 p.m. - Manassas Symphony Orchestra: **From the British Isles**

www.hyltoncenter.org

March 11 - 13 - Manassas Ballet Theatre: **Dances and Divertissements** – A Spring Sampler

www.manassasballet.org



March 12 at noon - **Liberia House Hard Hat Tours.** Discover the most recent Civil War graffiti and see the rarely-opened attic and basement.

www.manassasmuseum.org

March 13 at 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk at the Manassas Museum - **Dark Days in our Beloved Country**

www.visitmanassas.org

March 19 at 7:30 p.m. - Manassas Chorale: **Voices United – With Hearts and Hands and Voices**

www.hyltoncenter.org

March 20 - 26 - **Hop Around Downtown** - Come shop and hop around Historic Downtown to win sweets and prizes!

www.visitmanassas.org

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
 Kristen Kiefer 571-606-1129
 Ellen M. Purdy 571-606-0499
 Pamela J. Sebesky 571-535-0652
 Sanford S. Williams 571-535-6364

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 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.