



Welcome to the City



L to R: Officers J. Aussems, L. Armas, Chief Keen, J. Jordan, and C. Jones

At a recent City Council meeting, four new City of Manassas Police Officers were sworn into office by Mayor Harry J. Parrish II.

Officer J. Aussems is from Hackettstown, NJ. He served six years in the military as a police officer before joining the Manassas City Police Department (MCPD). While attending the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy (NVCJTA) Aussems was elected Vice President of his section. This is a huge honor in the training academy.

Officer L. Armas was born in Guatemala, but grew up in Hamilton, New Jersey with his twin brother and a sister. He is fluent in both Spanish and English, which is a great benefit to the department. He has an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from Mercer County Community College and worked for Princeton University for seven years prior to joining the MCPD.

Officer J. Jordan grew up in neighboring Fauquier County. He

received his Associates Degree from Lord Fairfax Community College. While serving in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves, Jordan was deployed to Iraq for a seven month tour as an infantry scout team leader. Prior to joining the MCPD, Jordan worked at the Prince William – Manassas Regional Adult Detention Center.

Officer C. Jones was born in Spotsylvania County. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Towson University and is pursuing a Masters Degree at Liberty University. Prior to joining the MCPD, Jones was employed as a Deputy at the Westmoreland County Sheriff's Office.

These new officers will be out in our community ensuring safety and security in the city along with our current officers. If you see one of these new officers, make sure to wave or let them know that they are welcome in the community.

Presidential Primary Elections to be held March 1

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 a.m. to 7 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.

A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
William Patrick Pate

As we prepare for a new year, many of us take the time to review our personal health, ongoing finances and individual growth from the past year. This also provides us with an opportunity to think about goals for the upcoming year or perhaps even several years into the future.

As a city, we also must take stock of where we have been and where we want to go as a community. If you have been attending or watching Council meetings (you can also look at past meetings on our website) you will see various reports from departments, Boards and Commissions on what they have accomplished over the past year and challenges they are expecting in the upcoming year.

Did you know that the city answered about 53,000 police calls for service

last year or that the city has more than 21,000 registered voters? How about the fact that the city collected almost 12,000 tons of refuse and almost 5,000 tons of recycling during the year? Or that over 15,000 customers sought help from social services, utility customer service answered over 56,000 phone calls and more than 250,000 people attended events in Manassas? Our community services are in good health.

In January we provided to the Governing Body the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report as of and for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2015 with a “clean” opinion from the auditing firm of BrownEdwards. I am pleased to report that our overall financial position remains strong, in compliance with our Council adopted financial policies, and with a stable outlook from the bond rating agencies. During the year the City Council and the Manassas City School Board reached a three year funding agreement for the local contribution to public schools that will allow for better budget planning for both organizations. Our community is in good financial shape.

Some dates that you may want to remember are the Mayor’s State of the City address, scheduled for presentation on Feb. 8 and the Manager’s proposed

budget, scheduled to be presented on March 14. There are significant issues that we need to address and prioritize as a community. Focusing on community investment, education, public safety, housing and redevelopment, and economic development have all been priorities for the Governing Body. The caveat is to focus on these areas in a way that also provides for sustainable government services with strong financial stewardship. Our continued community growth and advancement will depend on how and what we prioritize as important for the City.

In thinking about my personal goals, I tend to remember the Boy Scout Oath and in particular the last sentence which says, “To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.” This also parallels the strategic themes for the City of Manassas of living in an authentic place, providing opportunities for growth and supporting our community values.

In the words of former Mayor Marvin Gillum, let’s build “a community for a lifetime.”

Events at the Airport

Did you know that the City of Manassas has the busiest General Aviation Airport in the Commonwealth? It’s true. Not only is it busy with flights, but also with events.

In January the Airport was overrun with 80 K9’s and their human partners. GMU Master Police Officer and K9 handler John Arnold Jr. worked with Juan Rivera at the Manassas Regional Airport, Pat Colgan of Capital Aviation and Joe Gardner of Dulles Aviation to coordinate a Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments K9 Committee Training Day.

K9 teams from Federal, State and Local government agencies met to work their dogs on drug and bomb sniffing

exercises. Training included working with two VRE trains and using two 34-passenger airplanes provided by Capital Aviation.

Also in January, 145 pilots met during a Northern Virginia Pilots Town Hall where a panel of aviation experts briefed them on the latest news happening in the industry and what to expect in the future.

Organized by Bob Hepp, President of Aviation Adventure, one of the Manassas Regional Airport’s flight school businesses, the town hall was well attended and well received.

Look for some great spring events at the Airport, including the 10K/5K run and the Manassas Airshow. You won’t want to miss a minute of it.



Some thoughts for Snow

Trash Collection in the Snow

Snow and bad weather can make setting out your trash and recycling difficult and even hazardous to your health. Here are a few tips to make your winter trash and recycling collection easier:

- Stay in touch: Check the City of Manassas government channel, website, Facebook page or call the Trashline on (703) 257-8252. Trash and recycling collection may be postponed or delayed when road conditions are poor.
- Make your container easy to see. Set your trash out in hard sided containers with tight fitting lids, preferably the City trash and recycling containers.
- Think before you set out bulk waste. Setting out large items in bad weather can be dangerous for you and for the crew. Please call ahead to schedule bulk waste collection.
- Report damaged carts and/or bins. Freezing cold weather can be hard on plastic containers causing them to shatter and break. Call the Trashline at (703) 257-8252 as soon as you see damage and we will replace your container on the next scheduled delivery day.

- Please have patience. Our aim is to collect your trash and recycling in a timely manner. Our contractor will be checking the safety of road conditions all night before they postpone or cancel service. Sometimes a storm may not be as bad as it seems and collections will follow a regular schedule. We will let you know as soon as there are any changes.

Thank you in advance for your patience and for being good neighbors. If you need additional assistance or advice, call the Trashline on (703) 257-8252.

Removing Snow

When the weather turns to snow, 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 snow continues to fall

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, visit www.manassascity.org/snow.

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 outlet covers along outside walls.
- More energy saving tips can be found at <http://energy.gov>.

2016 Household Hazardous Waste, Electronic Waste and Shredding Schedule

- March 5
- April 2 with Shredding
- May 7
- June 4
- July 9 with Shredding
- August 6
- September 3
- October 1
- November 5 with Shredding

All household hazardous waste, eWaste and shredding days are held on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon at the Manassas Transfer Station located at 8305 Quarry Road, Manassas, VA 20110. This is a free service provided for City of Manassas residents in partnership with Waste Management.

A new way to dispose of electronics

The City of Manassas is now working with Potomac eCycle to recycle electronics. Residents now have another option for recycling! You can drop off electronics for free at the regular residential Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off days - or - drop off electronics at 7917 Wellingford Drive, Manassas VA 20109. Please be advised that there is a fee for dropping off electronics at Potomac eCycle, however, they also pay for scrap items of value.

The City of Manassas Happenings

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

February 2 - 28 - Manassas Museum reopens to the public with a new exhibit - *What the Civil War Soldier Carries*

www.manassasmuseum.org

February 1-29 - Stonewall Park Pool season passes are on sale for 30% off

www.manassascity.org/pool

February 5, 5-8pm - First Friday - "Souper 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

February 27 at 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk at the Manassas Museum - *The First Battle of Manassas*

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, 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous Waste & eWaste Drop off**, 8305 Quarry Road

www.manassascity.org/trash

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

www.hyltoncenter.org

March 6 at 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk at the Manassas Museum - *Poems of the Manassas Battlefield*

www.visitmanassas.org

March 7 - 14 - **Spring Restaurant Week** in Historic Downtown Manassas

www.visitmanassas.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 12 at 11 a.m. - **17th Annual Greater Manassas St. Patrick's Day Parade** in Historic Downtown

www.stpatparade.net

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

April - October - Thursdays and Fridays at noon - **Historic Downtown Walking Tours**

www.visitmanassas.org

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

City of Manassas Council

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|----------------------------|--------------|
| 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 |

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.