



Manassas Connection

October 2016

Meet Your Deputy Chief of Fire & Rescue

After an extensive search of highly qualified applicants, Fire and Rescue Chief Rob Clemons announced the selection of Todd E. Lupton as Deputy Chief of Fire and Rescue for the City of Manassas. Lupton has been with the City of Manassas Fire and Rescue System since 2011, serving as Battalion Chief.

“In the five years Todd has been with the City, he has helped the EMS services grow to become award winning,” said Chief Clemons. “I believe Todd has the leadership and management qualities that will help him excel as a Deputy Chief in our Department and for our Fire service.”

Lupton has more than 18 years of Fire and Rescue experience. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Fire Science Administration from Waldorf College, and an Associates Degree in EMS Technology from Northern Virginia

Community College. Lupton has achieved the Designation of Chief Fire Officer and Chief EMS Officer through the Commission on Professional Credentialing. He is currently certified as a Fire Officer IV and a National Registered Paramedic.

During his career he has served at every rank to include serving several times as an Interim Fire Chief. Lupton was named EMS Administrator of the year in 2013 by the Northern Virginia EMS Council.

“Todd has a great range of experiences with Fire and Rescue Services and with combined volunteer and career systems,” said City Manager W. Patrick Pate. “I know Chief Clemons is looking forward to having Deputy Chief Lupton as a member of his management team.”



October 9-15 is Fire Prevention Week. Learn the Facts!

Does your home have a smoke alarm? According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the answer is likely yes: NFPA research shows that most American homes have at least one. But do you know how old your smoke alarms are? If you're like most people, you're probably not sure. Here are a few facts:

- Smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years.
- Make sure you know how old all the smoke alarms are in your home.
- To find out how old a smoke alarm is, look at the date of manufacture on the back of the alarm; the alarm should be replaced 10 years from that date.

The City of Manassas Fire and Rescue System suggests that you test your smoke alarms monthly, and that batteries should be replaced twice a year or when they

begin to chirp, signaling that they're running low.

“Time and again, I've seen the life-saving impact smoke alarms can have in a home fire, but I've also seen the tragedy that can result when smoke alarms aren't working properly,” said Fire and Rescue Chief Rob Clemons. “That's why we're making a concerted effort to educate City of Manassas residents about the overall importance of smoke alarms, and that they do have a life limit.”

A few more life-saving tips include:

- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.
- Install smoke detectors in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms.
- If the smoke detector sounds, get



outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.

- Call 911 from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the Fire Department says it's safe to go back inside.
- Free smoke alarms are available by calling 703-257-8458.

A Message from the City Manager



City Manager
William Patrick Pate

My thoughts this month started with “Where did the summer go?” and quickly sidetracked into “Why are there so many things going on all at the same time?”

You cannot live in Manassas long before you begin to learn that there is so much going on that it is virtually impossible to get to everything. A fall weekend in Manassas means festivals, shows, school programs, athletic events, charitable fundraising activities, religious and cultural functions, just to name a few. There literally seems to be something going on all the time in Manassas.

I often hear visitors and many residents comment on the wonderful assets and amenities that we have in the City that make it possible to hold these events and that unfortunately can easily be taken for granted. I also hear many folks voice concern that we cannot rest on our laurels and we must continue to plan and prepare for the future. We seem to have the enviable problem of more groups

wanting to hold events than facilities and places to hold them.

This is why your City is working on several fronts to make sure that we are not resting on our laurels, but are planning for the future. A major part of this planning process involves what we call our Capital Improvement Program. This is a process where we identify major facility needs, determine priorities and how those priority needs can be financed. The result is a five-year plan updated and adopted by City Council each year.

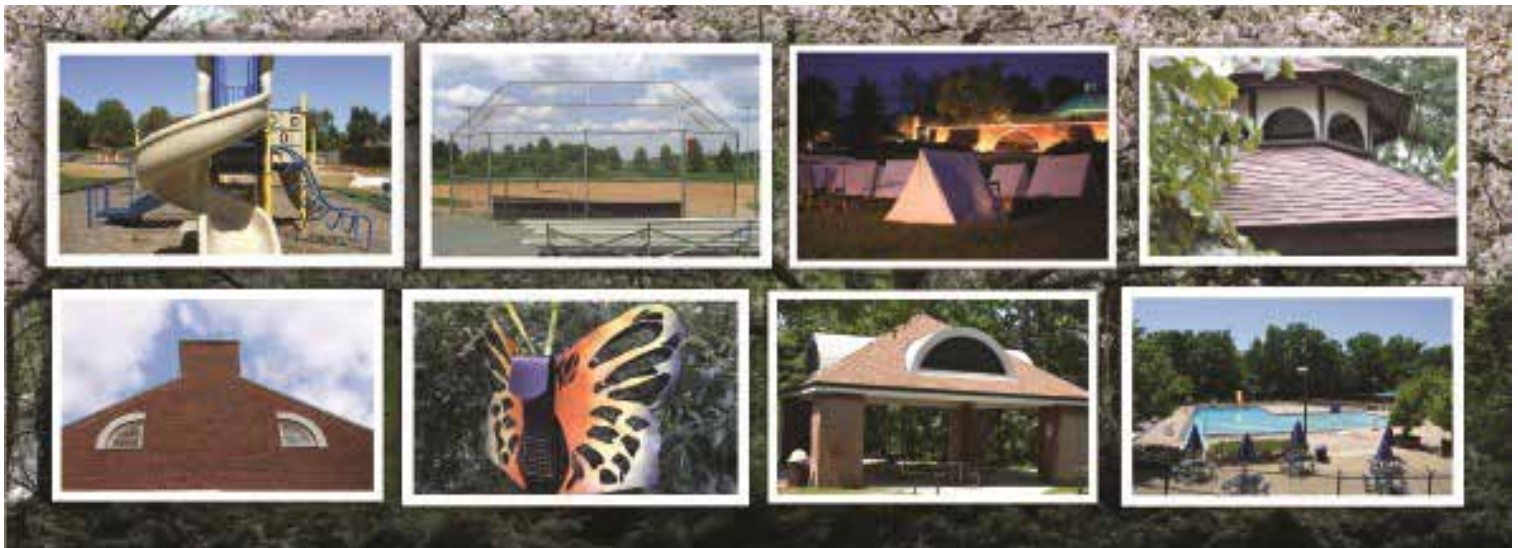
Significant input from the community is included in this process. Manassas Next, the 2032 comprehensive plan, is a key planning element that addresses areas such as community vision, land use, housing and neighborhoods, economic development, mobility, community facilities and cultural resources. This community based effort sets out goals, objectives and strategies for the City to achieve over the next 20 years.

The City also conducts a scientifically significant citizen satisfaction survey so the community can voice their thoughts on local government services and amenities. This is done on a biannual basis and the 2016 survey was sent out to a random selection of homes in September. We expect the results of this survey to be compiled and reported on over the next several months. It will be used to help set priorities over the next several years.

In addition, the City looks closely at specific priority service areas. For example, a public safety facilities

study was done that recommended addressing public safety needs such as the relocation of a fire and rescue station to improve response times in the City. This new station is currently under design. During the past year we have undertaken a parks, recreation and culture study as this was a priority identified in the last citizen satisfaction survey. Results of this study will be included in the next capital improvement plan. Recent discussions with the County and Manassas Park have also resulted in an upcoming effort to look at the future of library services.

All of these efforts are to build on the progress that has been made in Manassas over the years to make this a community where people want to come and spend quality time with friends and family. Having too many events and activities to choose from is considered a good problem by many folks. So next time I start to think “There are too many things going on,” I am going to remember, “What a wonderful place full of opportunities is this place that we call home!”



Not For Glory: The Stories of Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

They skirted missiles while flying low over desert sands, handled dogs searching for explosive devices, traveled through blinding sandstorms in armored convoys, went door to door in search of insurgents, and aided counter-terrorism efforts at the Pentagon. A new Manassas Museum exhibit, *Not for Glory*, features local Veterans and the fight in the Global War on Terrorism. This exhibit tells the stories of area veterans whose memories of recent conflicts are as intense as the searing desert heat so many endured.

“We had over 20 Scud missiles aimed at us, each one bringing with it defensive Patriot missile launches and the addition of chemical warfare gear and gas masks to our wardrobe. Then it was over,” Air Force Sergeant Tom Wahl recalled of his service during Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

Army Private First Class Greg Pass also shared his surprise at the brevity of the conflict. “Uninjured Iraqi soldiers were surrendering in such great numbers that we could not handle taking them prisoner,” Pass said of his mission with a mechanized infantry division. “We ensured they were unarmed and sent them on foot into the southern desert with instructions to turn themselves in to the next unit they ran across.”

Marine Lieutenant General Richard F. Natonski faced far different challenges while commanding the First Marine Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004. He recalled how his troops kept their sense of humor in the midst of the Battle of Fallujah. “The Marines returned fire,” Natonski recalled of a squad attacked while clearing the city. “They pulled out the wounded Marine, and after some discussion over who would take the point when they went back to clear the building, proceeded to discuss what actor would play each of them when they released Fallujah the movie.”

During a 2008 meeting with an informant, Marine Staff Sergeant Chris Baity watched in amazement as his military dog discovered a cache of weapons in the man’s home. “The guy was a double agent and we had no idea. My dog knew though.” As a civilian, Baity found a way to continue working with

dogs and helping veterans. He and his wife Amanda founded Semper K9, an organization that rescues dogs from shelters, trains them to be service dogs and then places them with local veterans and families in need.

Despite suffering a traumatic brain injury in 2004, Marine Lieutenant Colonel Timothy A. Maxwell established a wounded warrior barracks at Camp Lejeune, N.C. so that no Marine would go through the recovery process alone. This facility, named for Maxwell, was the first of its kind in the United States and inspired many other wounded warrior projects.

Manassas Museum Curator Mary Helen Dellinger reached out to Jerry Martin, a local veteran who is very active in the community; Jim Porter, the Director of the Freedom Museum; Angela McConnell, the Director of NOVA Veterans Association, and Rebecca Christovich, the current President of American Legion Post 10. Each of these individuals contributed to this exhibit and were able to put staff in touch with veterans who agreed to participate in the exhibit through the loan of objects and images, and sharing their experiences of being a veteran.



AP reporter Ross Simpson in his MOPP-4 gear during the invasion of Iraq in 2003. MOPP stands for Mission Oriented Protective Posture and refers to the gear worn by U.S. military personnel in a toxic environment. Courtesy of Ross Simpson, Associated Press

Not For Glory includes images from the local veterans’ personal collections, uniforms and equipment used during the conflicts, and unusual items such as an insurgent mask and “Most Wanted” playing cards designed to help soldiers identify the enemy.

The exhibit opens November 4, runs through February 19, and is open free Tuesday through Sundays, 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. The Manassas Museum, located in historic downtown at 9101 Prince William Street, is also open on Veterans Day. Visit www.manassasmuseum.org or call 703-368-1873 for more information.



Chris Baity and his military working dog, Rona, are shown here while deployed to Israel. Chris and the other men in his unit worked with their dogs to locate explosives and IEDs that might injure United States and coalition forces. Courtesy of Chris Baity

The City of Manassas Happenings

Here's what's happening in the City of Manassas.

Thru Oct. 28 - Thursdays and Fridays at noon - **Historic Downtown Walking Tours**

www.manassasmuseum.org

Thru October - Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. - **Museum at the Market** - find out what fun learning experience is in store every week

www.visitmanassas.org

Thru November - **Manassas Farmer's Market** - Thursdays & Saturdays, 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

www.visitmanassas.org

Thru Nov. 17 - Manassas Lioness Lions Club **5th Community Book Collection** - Drop off at Manassas City Police Department

nuhse4u@verizon.net

Oct. 1, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - **34th Annual Manassas Fall Jubilee**

www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 1, 8 a.m. to noon - **Household Hazardous and eWaste drop off**

www.manassascity.org/trash

Oct. 5 - Personal Property Taxes are due

www.manassascity.org

Oct. 6 - **Creativity and Innovation for the Business Professional**

www.center-for-the-arts.org

Oct. 7, 6-9 p.m. - **First Friday** in historic downtown Manassas

www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 7, 8 p.m. - **Cemetery Tour** with the Manassas Museum. \$5 each.

<http://manassasechoes.com>

Oct. 7, 4-7 p.m. - **Food Truck Event** in the Metz Middle School parking lot - an Osbourn Alumni event - Free admission

Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m. - **Manassas Chorale "Love Actually" Concert** at the Hylton Performing Arts Center

www.hyltoncenter.org

Oct. 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - **Utilities Day** at 8500 Public Works Drive - free fun, food, and games and learn about Public Works

Oct. 9, 12-5pm - **Manassas Steins, Wines & Spirits** at the Harris Pavilion

www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 9, 1:30pm - Free Book Talk **Dawn of Victory: Breakthrough at Petersburg** with Ed Alexander at the Manassas Museum

www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 15, 6-11 p.m. - **Freedom Museum Hangar Dance**

www.freedommuseum.org

Oct. 17 - **Last day** to register to vote for the November election

www.manassascity.org/vote

Oct. 20-23 - B17, Ford Tri-Motor, CAF aircraft at the Manassas Regional Airport

<http://eaa186.org/events>

Oct. 21, 8 p.m. - **Cemetery Tour** with the Manassas Museum. \$5 each.

<http://manassasechoes.com>

Oct. 21 - 23 - **Frankenstein** by the Manassas Ballet Theatre

www.hyltoncenter.org

Oct. 23, 1:30 p.m. - Free Book Talk **Society of Rebels, The Diary of Amanda Edmonds** with Lee Lawrence at the Manassas Museum

www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 29 - **Haunted Happenings** in historic downtown Manassas

www.visitmanassas.org

Oct. 29, 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. - **Spirits of Manassas**. Travel by bus to mysterious locations and hear spooky stories.

<http://manassasechoes.com>

Oct. 29, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Voter Registration Office open

www.manassascity.org/vote

Nov. 4, 6-9 p.m. - **Fall Gallery Walk** in historic downtown Manassas

www.visitmanassas.org

Nov. 4 - Feb. 19 - New Exhibit - **Not For Glory: Manassas Veterans & the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan**

www.visitmanassas.org

Nov. 5 - Voter Registration Office open - last day to vote absentee in-person.

www.manassascity.org/vote

Nov. 5, 8 a.m. to noon - **Recycle Fest 2016** at the Manassas Transfer Station

www.manassascity.org/trash

Nov. 6, 3:30 - 6 p.m. - **Sunday Ballroom Dance** at Center for the Arts

www.center-for-the-arts.org

Nov. 8 - Election Day

Nov. 12, 11 a.m. - **8th Annual Veteran's Day Parade** honoring Vets who are 1st responders

www.vetpar.org

Nov. 13, 1:30pm - Free Book Talk **The Last Lynching in Northern Virginia** with Jim Hall at the Manassas Museum

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 1, 2016 - 2017 Commuter (Red) and Downtown Business & Residential (Blue) permits available

www.manassascity.org

Dec. 1, 2016 - 2017 Dog Tags on sale

www.manassascity.org

Dec. 2, 5:30-8pm - **Merry Old Town Tree Lighting** on the Manassas Museum Lawn

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 3, 10 a.m. - **Greater Manassas Christmas Parade** - <https://gmchristmasparade.org>

Dec. 4, 1:30pm - Free Book Talk **Justice and Vengeance: Scandal, Honor, and Murder in 1872 Virginia** with Arwen Bicknell at the Manassas Museum

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 4, 11, & 18 - **Carriage Rides** through Historic Downtown Manassas

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 4, 12-1:30 p.m. - **Gingerbread House Workshop** at Center for the Arts

www.center-for-the-arts.org

Dec. 14 - 18 - **Winter Wonderland Train Show**

www.visitmanassas.org

Dec. 16, 6 - 8 p.m. - **Holidays on the Lawn** at the Manassas Museum

www.visitmanassas.org

City of Manassas and Manassas Public Schools

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To contact the City of Manassas Connection newsletter, email pprince@ci.manassas.va.us.